

Preston Rural District Council



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

1950

PRESTON:

Printed by E. Ambler, 37 Shepherd Street.

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To the Chairman and Members of the Preston Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on the health, sanitary conditions and circumstances of the Preston Rural District for the year ended 31st December, 1950.

The period under review was the first year that I officiated as your Medical Officer of Health; it was also the fiftieth year of the 20th century, and to commemorate the occasion, I have included in the report a statistical review covering the five decades since 1900, which I trust the members will find interesting.

Minor alterations have been made to that section of the report dealing with vital statistics. The alterations are consequent upon the receipt of Ministry of Health Circular S.D. 103/1/2 dated 9th January, 1950, and are principally concerned with causes of death, and age groupings relative to Infant mortality.

Referring to the vital statistics, the forward surge in the well-being of the community which has been a feature of the post-war reports, appears to have been arrested, and I have to record a fall in the live birth-rate of 0.5 per 1,000, an increase in the crude death-rate and infant mortality rate of 1.4 and 4.0 respectively, and an increase in the death-rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis of 0.05. Other adverse features are an increase in the still birth-rate from 14 to 31, an increase in the number of Cancer deaths, and the death of five infants under two years of age from Gastritis Enteritis and Diarrhoea. There are, however, one or two compensating factors, such as a decreased maternal mortality rate and a reduction in the number of illegitimate live births.

Regarding the prevention and control of infectious diseases, it is rather pleasing to record a considerable reduction in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever, from 89 in 1949 to 33 in 1950. The incidence of Measles continues to decline, but the satisfaction derived from this is quickly dispelled by the considerable increase in the number of cases of Whooping Cough. Enteric Fever and Smallpox failed to appear for the second year in succession, but the immunity from Diphtheria was broken, one case being recorded. Eight cases of Food Poisoning and nine cases of Dysentery not occurring in Whittingham Mental Hospital were thoroughly investigated, and every precaution taken to prevent secondary infection. One case of Acute Poliomyelitis occurred, as compared with three cases in the previous year, and the patient died in hospital.

Though the statistics indicate a slight decline in the health of the Rural population, it can be confidently predicted that the set-back is only temporary, as after all, when one considers the record low mortality figures which have been achieved during the last five years, a recession was almost bound to occur.

Principal legislation which came into force during 1950 is summarised and commented upon in the text of the report, and includes the Shops Act, 1950, the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, and the Council's Food Bye-laws.

I have also confined comment on housing conditions prevailing in the Rural area to the section of the report which presents housing statistics, in order that the points to which I refer can be easily appreciated.

Though the Council's officers engaged in the field of public health were called upon to perform multitudinous duties, a strict supervision was maintained in all matters affecting the well-being of the residents. The work of the District Inspectors is tedious to a degree, and rarely appreciated, and unfortunately cannot be illustrated by mere figures.

Unsewered areas and improved water supplies to certain parishes are still problems which require urgent attention. Unfortunately costs continue to rise, and the materials supply position worsens. It is hoped that these factors will not dampen the enthusiasm of the persons responsible for the preparation and execution of the schemes.

In concluding these introductory remarks, I would like to express my gratitude to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for the kindness and courtesy shown to me at all times. My thanks are due also to the members of the staff of the Health Department for their loyal help, and to the Officers of the Council for their assistance. In this connection, I am especially grateful to Mr. Young and Mr. Collier, whose valuable collaboration greatly lightened my labours.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. WALKER,

Medical Officer of Health.

PRESTON RURAL AREA

1900 to 1950.

Review of the Principal Vital Statistics and Statistics relative to the Principal Infectious Diseases.

The halfway stage has been reached in this, the 20th century, and a brief statistical review of the Public Health in the Preston Rural Area becomes necessary.

To reiterate, the review is limited to principal statistics, apart from the introduction, and no attempt will be made to compete with literature which is available to people who wish to study the progress made in the fields of curative medicine, preventive medicine, environmental hygiene and personal hygiene.

The review covers five decades, each decade being dealt with separately.

INTRODUCTION.

The Medical Officer of Health at the beginning of this century was Dr. Charles J. Trimble. A remarkable gentleman, and a sarcastic and stern critic of apathy in the field of Public Health.

He records that, at the time of his appointment, about the year 1880, there did not exist a single sewerage or sewage disposal scheme, water supply from the main, or arrangement for scavenging in the Rural area. By the year 1900, however, he appeared to be well satisfied with the progress made in these respects. To quote, "To-day all these advancements are accomplished facts." What were the advancements to which he referred? The following parishes were sewered, apart from isolated houses: Grimsargh, Broughton, Farington, Ribchester, and a scheme was in course of preparation for the hamlet of Penwortham. Areas of the following parishes were receiving a piped water supply: Grimsargh, Whittingham, Broughton, Haighton, Goosnargh, Lea, Barton, Penwortham, Hutton, Longton, Much Hoole and Little Hoole. Discussions were under way for extending the area of supply in Barton, and supplying a limited number of farms in Samlesbury. Two Parochial Committees had arrangements for the scavenging of the North Ward of Farington, and part of Penwortham. The construction of a hospital for the treatment of Infectious Diseases was within reasonable distance of accomplishment.

There is no doubt that a great deal of progress had been made by the year 1900, but to turn to the adverse side of the picture, housing and sanitary conditions generally in certain parishes were described as primitive.

The outlook of the Medical Officer of Health at this time would appear to be one of optimism. He referred to the Council as a progressive body, and stated that much had been done in the interests of the health of the people.

The introduction is concluded, but before we turn to the statistical review, it should be stated that in the first two decades statistics were generally derived at through the medium of rough calculation, and the notification of Infectious Diseases was far from satisfactory. The statistics submitted in these two decades, however, serve a useful purpose.

1st DECADE.

PRINCIPAL VITAL STATISTICS.

Year	Population	Birth rate	Nett Death rate (crude)	Infant Mortality rate	Death rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis
1901	..... 15,997	... 26.73	... 14.56	.. 111	... 0.44
1902	..... „	... 25.81	... 14.25	... 131	... 0.62
1903	..... „	... 25.62	... 14.25	... 121	... 0.62
1904	..... „	... 25.87	... 15.19	... 94	... 0.81
1905	..... „	... 26.31	... 14.19	... 87	... 0.87
1906	..... „	... 25.69	... 14.50	... 131	... 0.31
1907	..... „	... 25.87	... 15.12	... 91	... 1.06
1908	..... „	... 27.88	... 12.87	... 94	... 0.68
1909	..... „	.. 24.62	... 14.81	... 93	... 1.18
1910	..... „	... 26.94	... 14.87	... 74	... 0.68
Average		26.13	... 14.46	... 102	... 0.72

Statistics calculated on estimated population figures for intercensal years are, to a degree, erroneous, but more so when estimated population figures are not available, and the population for the census year 1901, taken as a guide for the next nine years. Further, in his reports, Dr. Trimble ignored the total death-rate, which included deaths of persons residing in Institutions. He remarked, rather callously, that they only came into the Rural area to die. In addition to all this, tuberculosis was not compulsorily notifiable.

However, they do serve as a rough guide, and it will be observed that the birth-rate and death-rate remained steady, apart from one or two minor fluctuations.

A bright feature was that infants had a better chance of survival at the end of the decade than what they had at the beginning. On the other hand, if a person contracted Pulmonary Tuberculosis, the outlook was not so bright.

PRINCIPAL INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

C. cases. D. deaths. NA not available,

Year	Measles		Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria		Enteric Fever.		Whooping Cough		Small-pox.	
	C.	D.	C.	D.	C.	D.	C.	D.	C.	D.	C.	D.
1901	NA	—	85	6	14	3	9	2	NA	4	—	—
1902	59	2	54	4	11	3	11	4	35	4	—	—
1903	71	1	44	1	7	1	6	3	53	4	—	—
1904	151	4	32	1	12	2	14	2	102	1	1	—
1905	50	—	53	3	4	3	8	1	NA	3	1	—
1906	217	3	111	1	20	6	12	3	NA	—	—	—
1907	NA	1	76	2	10	3	4	1	NA	4	—	—
1908	102	1	17	—	6	2	12	2	60	2	—	—
1909	153	4	35	—	16	2	9	1	35	3	—	—
1910	40	—	69	1	22	—	6	—	32	2	—	—
Totals	843	16	576	19	122	25	91	19	317	27	2	—

Add up the deaths which occurred from these diseases, and the total is 106. A second disturbing factor to Dr. Trimble must have been the high incidence of Diphtheria and Enteric Fever aggravated by the knowledge that many more cases might have occurred which had not been notified. He does state, however, that the cases of Enteric Fever were of a sporadic nature, and the cause could not be determined.

Only two cases of Smallpox occurred, and this is remarkable when one considers that the County as a whole was infested with smallpox throughout the period of this decade. For instance, the Medical Officer of Health records 1,755 cases occurring in the County Palatine of Lancaster during the years 1903-5, with 102 deaths.

The sanitary circumstance of the Rural area had improved during this decennium, and though the forward march was slow, there was an undoubted uplifting of the conditions under which people lived.

2nd DECADE.

PRINCIPAL VITAL STATISTICS.

Year	Population	Birth-rate.	Nett death-rate (crude)	Infant Mortality rate	Death-rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis
1911	18,845	19.47	12.77	103	0.50
1912	„	20.62	13.11	87	0.58
1913	18,760	20.30	12.68	110	0.79
1914	„	21.10	12.63	78	0.95
1915	18,822	17.85	12.91	68	0.47
1916	18,170	18.00	13.4	73	1.10
1917	18,024	13.60	14.1	98	0.83
1918	17,356	15.40	17.6	73	0.97
1919	18,549	15.20	12.3	64	0.64
1920	19,288	22.80	12.7	81	0.62
Average		18.43	13.42	83	0.74

The population figure for the year 1920 was 19,288, an increase of 3,311 over the population figure for 1901.

As will be seen, the birth-rate from 1914 to 1917 dropped very rapidly, but recovered slightly in 1918. This recovery was maintained in 1919, but in 1920 a considerable jump occurred, when the highest rate of the decade was recorded. The death-rate fluctuated slightly till 1918, when the highest rate during the last two decennia occurred, 17.6. This was followed by a considerable reduction in the death-rate in 1919. The average death-rate for the 2nd decade was 13.42 compared with 14.46 for the 1st decade. The Infant Mortality rate fell from 103 to 81, a most welcome feature. The Pulmonary Tuberculosis death-rate increased gradually, till 1916 it stood at the high figure of 1.10, but from then onwards it gradually decreased. The average rate, however, was higher than that for the 1st decade, 0.74 as against 0.72.

PRINCIPAL INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

C. cases. D. deaths. NA not available.

Year	Measles		Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria.		Enteric Fever.		Whooping Cough		Small-pox.	
	C.	D.	C.	D.	C.	D.	C.	D.	C.	D.	C.	D.
1911	99	4	65	1	17	2	11	—	24	1	—	—
1912	48	2	50	3	10	—	6	2	41	1	—	—
1913	125	1	94	4	11	—	6	2	NA	1	—	—
1914	80	1	137	2	13	1	3	—	NA	1	—	—
1915	NA	7	70	2	16	3	3	—	NA	1	—	—
1916	85	1	88	1	20	6	5	1	NA	—	—	—
1917	317	—	23	—	11	—	2	2	NA	2	—	—
1918	Not available											
1919	21	—	45	—	11	3	4	—	NA	—	—	—
1920	120	4	54	—	45	2	8	1	NA	—	—	—
Totals	895	20	626	13	154	17	48	8	—	7	—	—

The number of deaths attributable to these diseases, including 1918, when 4 deaths occurred (unidentified), was 67, 39 deaths less than the 1st decade. The incidence of Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever had increased, but that of Enteric Fever had decreased, a welcome offset. Smallpox had vanished from the scene, though the County as a whole suffered from this scourge. The unreliability of the incidence of Measles makes comment worthless, and figures for Whooping Cough, even estimated, were not available, except for the first two years.

The decade ends with Dr. Trimble commenting on the Housing problem, and he stated that though the intention was to put up two hundred houses, constructional work had not begun, due to the enormous costs of material and labour, and he continued: "Undoubtedly we need houses, for there is overcrowding, but as there are no vacant dwellings, the best has to be made of the situation."

3rd DECADE.

PRINCIPAL VITAL STATISTICS.

Year	Population	Birth rate	Crude Death rate	Infant Mortality rate	Death rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis
1921	23,210	15.7	10.0	62	0.31
1922	23,360	13.2	11.9	87	0.81
1923	23,450	15.9	10.1	67	0.72
1924	24,000	13.9	9.6	56	0.33
1925	24,400	14.9	10.9	63	0.45
1926	26,030	14.0	9.7	82	0.30
1927	26,970	14.3	11.4	80	0.22
1928	28,060	14.0	10.6	45	0.35
1929	27,930	14.2	12.0	77	0.32
1930	27,930	13.4	10.5	76	0.50
Average		14.35	10.67	69	0.43

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF AVERAGE STATISTICS.

Period.	Birth-rate	Crude Death-rate	Infant Mortality rate.	Death-rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.
1st DECADE	26.13	14.46	102	0.72
2nd DECADE	18.43	13.42	83	0.74
3rd DECADE	14.35	10.67	69	0.43

The population of the Rural area in 1930 was 27,930. In a period of 30 years, therefore, it had almost doubled itself. This occurred when the birth-rate during the same period was falling rapidly. The declining birth-rate, however, was masked, to a degree, by the falling death-rate.

Until the end of the Nineteenth century, the infant mortality rate had remained obstinately at or near 150, but after 1900 a highly welcome decline took place. This was a substantial offset to a declining birth-rate. Some of the reduction in infantile deaths must be ascribed to better housing and a higher standard of living, but much of the credit for this saving in infant life was due to the Child Welfare Service, which by now had attained a reasonably high standard of efficiency.

Another favourable factor was the decrease in the death-rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

PRINCIPAL INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Figures for Measles and Whooping Cough were not available throughout the period of this decade. However, deaths from these diseases are recorded.

C. cases. D. deaths. NA not available.

Year	Measles			Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria.			Enteric Fever.		Whooping Cough			Small-pox.	
	C.	D.		C.	D.	C.	D.		C.	D.	C.	D.		C.	D.
1921	NA	—	...	62	1	...	25	2	...	3	—	...	NA	—
1922	NA	—	...	68	1	...	24	3	...	—	—	...	NA	1
1923	NA	—	...	22	—	...	5	1	...	1	—	...	NA	1
1924	NA	2	...	34	—	...	6	1	...	2	1	...	NA	—
1925	NA	—	...	76	1	...	16	3	...	1	1	...	NA	2
1926	NA	—	...	66	—	...	13	—	...	1	—	...	NA	3
1927	NA	2	...	19	—	...	15	1	...	2	—	...	NA	—
1928	NA	—	...	69	—	...	15	2	...	1	—	...	NA	—
1929	NA	—	...	98	—	...	10	—	...	1	—	...	NA	6
1930	NA	1	...	60	1	...	12	—	...	—	—	...	NA	1
Totals	—	5	...	574	4	...	141	13	...	12	2	...	—	14	...

Once again, there was a considerable reduction in the deaths from these diseases, 38 being recorded, as compared with 67 in the 2nd decade, and 106 in the 1st decade. An adverse factor, however, was the persistency of the incidence of Enteric Fever and Smallpox, though the number of cases of Enteric Fever had been reduced by 75%. Fourteen deaths attributable to Whooping Cough was also disturbing.

As regards Smallpox, the Medical Officer of Health never relaxed his attack on the anti-vaccinators. However, in his 1930 Report, he stated that, with a few exceptions, epidemic disease outbreaks gave little cause for anxiety.

The sanitary circumstance of the Rural area continued to improve, though the sewerage of unsewered areas was still an urgent problem.

4th DECADE.

PRINCIPAL VITAL STATISTICS.

Year	Population.	Birth-rate	Crude Death-rate	Infant Mortality rate.	Death-rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.
1931	30,030	14.1	11.3	44	0.39
1932	30,830	12.6	9.6	58	0.19
1933	31,710	13.5	11.5	51	0.53
1934	30,353	12.6	9.2	38	0.12
1935	31,440	14.4	10.3	48	0.41
1936	32,380	13.4	10.6	50	0.33
1937	33,360	15.4	10.9	63	0.32
1938	34,420	14.9	9.6	44	0.23
1939	35,890	14.9	10.1	57	0.25
1940	37,890	14.3	11.2	60	0.34
Average		14.0	10.4	51	0.31

The population increased by 7,860 in this decennium, the biggest jump so far. A large number of houses were erected in the Rural area during this period, which would account for this increase.

The average birth rates for the 3rd and 4th decennia differed slightly. This is also true of the crude death-rates. The infant mortality rate and the death rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis continued to decline.

PRINCIPAL INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Figures for Measles and Whooping Cough were not available until the end of the decade. However, deaths from these diseases are recorded.

C. cases. D. deaths. NA not available.

Year	Measles		Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria.		Enteric Fever.		Whooping Cough		Small-pox.	
	C.	D.	C.	D.	C.	D.	C.	D.	C.	D.	C.	D.
1931	NA	—	37	—	8	—	1	—	NA	2	—	—
1932	NA	—	109	1	8	1	2	—	NA	—	—	—
1933	NA	1	108	1	10	1	1	—	NA	1	—	—
1934	NA	1	99	1	7	—	1	—	NA	—	—	—
1935	NA	—	46	2	24	—	1	—	NA	—	—	—
1936	NA	—	42	—	29	1	—	—	NA	—	—	—
1937	NA	—	66	1	11	2	4	1	NA	—	—	—
1938	NA	1	87	—	8	1	6	—	NA	—	—	—
1939	NA	—	76	—	31	1	1	—	NA	1	—	—
1940	352	—	48	—	13	3	8	—	25	—	—	—
Totals	—	3	718	6	149	10	25	1	—	3	—	—

Fatality was much diminished in this decade, only 23 deaths being recorded, and no doubt improved sanitary conditions played a vital part. A disquieting feature, however, was the continued high incidence of Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever. Diphtheria cases increased sharply in the latter half of the decade. Artificial immunisation of children commenced in earnest in 1940, and whether this bore fruit will be seen in the figures for the last decennium. Smallpox vanished from the scene, but Enteric Fever still persisted, but to a lesser degree, and with only one death. Measles and Whooping Cough were compulsorily notifiable for the first full year in 1940.

This decade marked the biggest stride forward in the development of the public health and social services. Specialist services, provided either by the National, County or Local Authorities, had been extended and developed to such a degree that it could be truthfully stated that they were available for the whole community. The health of the inhabitants had improved considerably, but the end of the decade brought war, and many carefully prepared schemes of improvement in the different fields of public health had to be deferred indefinitely.

5th DECADE.

PRINCIPAL VITAL STATISTICS.

Year	Population.	Birth-rate	Crude Death-rate	Infant Mortality rate.	Death-rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.
1941	38,720	14.6	9.6	48	0.20
1942	37,780	15.4	11.1	46	0.37
1943	36,920	16.7	11.1	43	0.21
1944	35,990	18.0	10.9	32	0.25
1945	35,570	15.4	10.5	49	0.19
1946	36,560	15.2	11.7	48	0.43
1947	36,780	17.1	11.5	42	0.27
1948	37,820	14.4	9.5	34	0.18
1949	38,080	15.2	10.5	22	0.21
1950	38,660	14.7	11.9	26	0.26
Average		15.6	10.8	39	0.25

It will be observed that from 1941 to 1944 the birth-rate increased. The considerable fall in 1945 was unusual, but was doubtless due mainly to the egress from the country of large numbers of males following D-day in June, 1944.

It is but natural to compare the behaviour of the birth-rate during the war years 1939-45 with the period of the first world war 1914-18. In doing so, it is immediately apparent that the trend in the latter war was completely opposite to that in the earlier one. The birth-rate from 1914 to 1917 dropped very rapidly, but made a slight recovery in 1918. In the more recent war, however, the steady upward trend which the rate had maintained since 1935 continued until 1941. It then commenced to rise sharply until by 1944 it had reached the highest level since 1920. Then in 1945, as mentioned earlier, it fell considerably.

The rise and fall of the death-rate was similar in both world wars, except for the year 1918, when a considerable jump occurred. The Infant Mortality rate continued to decline, and in 1949 a record low of 22 was recorded. The same remarks apply to the Pulmonary Tuberculosis death-rate, though the record low of 0.12 was recorded in 1934. The population decreased during the war years, which was to be expected with a large number of males serving overseas with H.M. Forces. However, by 1949 the population figure was similar to that of 1940.

PRINCIPAL INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

C. cases. D. deaths. NA not available.

Year	Measles		Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria.		Enteric Fever.		Whooping Cough		Small-pox.	
	C.	D.	C.	D.	C.	D.	C.	D.	C.	D.	C.	D.
1941	125	1	51	—	19	3	3	—	40	1	—	—
1942	294	—	71	—	23	2	—	—	43	—	—	—
1943	229	1	156	—	37	1	—	—	36	—	—	—
1944	125	—	123	—	24	1	—	—	143	—	—	—
1945	214	—	73	—	10	—	—	—	39	—	—	—
1946	114	—	76	—	14	—	1	—	38	—	—	—
1947	565	—	32	—	3	—	1	—	55	—	—	—
1948	403	1	46	—	—	—	1	—	96	—	—	—
1949	221	—	89	—	—	—	—	—	43	—	—	—
1950	181	—	33	—	1	—	—	—	109	—	—	—
Totals	2471	3	750	—	131	7	6	—	642	1	—	—

Fatality from these diseases continued to decline, 11 deaths being recorded as compared with 23 in the preceding decennium. It will be seen that over half of the deaths occurred through Diphtheria. However, since the termination of the war in 1945, the reduction in the number of cases and deaths from this disease was remarkable, and it is a reasonable assumption that the explanation of the reduction is to be found in the artificial immunisation of children. It was not until late 1940 that systematic immunisation was really started, but even then owing to the numerous war-time difficulties, no real progress was made until 1942. Consequently, beneficial results were only forthcoming as late as 1945.

Prior to 1940, Measles and Whooping Cough were not compulsorily notifiable, and in consequence, a comparison with pre-war years is not possible. Over 3,000 cases were recorded during the decade, 2,471 being attributable to Measles, and the figures show that these diseases cannot be treated lightly, as though fatality was rare, the effect on a child's future health can be serious, especially in the case of Whooping Cough. Incidence of Scarlet Fever was high, but this disease has become more benign and removal to hospital is not always required. Incidence of Enteric Fever was much reduced, and no deaths were recorded, and Smallpox failed to appear for the second decade in succession. Let us hope that immunity does not breed apathy.

In conclusion, whilst this review is confined to statistics, it has other aspects which are both interesting and important. It presents, in fact, evidence of the soundness of the policies carried out since the turn of the century in establishing an organised public health service.

J. WALKER,

Medical Officer of Health.

Physical Features of the Area.

The Rural District is largely a lowland area, mainly below 250 feet, lying largely to the north of the River Ribble, but with considerable extensions south of the river, south-west and east of Preston. In the extreme north of the district the land rises rapidly to 874 feet at Beacon Fell, and in the east heights of over a thousand feet are attained on the southern slopes of Longridge Fell. North of Preston the drainage is largely eastwards to the River Wyre, while the rest of the district drains directly or indirectly into the Ribble.

The solid geological formations represented in the district are the Carboniferous Limestone, Millstone Grit, Bunter Sandstone and Keupur Marl. These formations are rarely seen at the surface, however, because they are buried beneath a thick cover of "drift" deposits. Apart from the valley alluvium of the rivers and streams and the raised terraces along the Ribble and Darwen, the "drift" is composed of glacial boulder clay, sand and gravel.

The latter occur only as impersistent patches on the boulder clay, such as that to the north-east of Goosnargh, or is exposed in the sides of the many stream valleys. Boulder clay covers most of the district, and in general gives rise to a heavy clay soil. The numerous marl pits which were dug many years ago to obtain material to lighten the soil are a characteristic feature of boulder clay areas. The heavy clay soils provide excellent pastures which support dairy herds, and arable farming is of lesser importance. Poultry farming is widespread, as it is throughout the whole of the Fylde area.

The solid rocks have little effect on the physical features of the area because of the thick drift cover. Over much of the area this thick cover renders it impossible to determine with any degree of accuracy the nature and structure of the underlying rocks unless borings are undertaken. In the extreme north and east of the district, however, the solid formations outcrop at the surface. These outcrops belong to the Carboniferous Limestone and Millstone Grit formations. The former is the oldest formation represented in the district, but here it does not carry the massive limestone beds so characteristic of other areas, e.g., Clitheroe. It is composed of a thick series of shales with thin limestones, the Worston Shales and the Pendleside Limestone series which underlie the greater part of the parishes of Goosnargh, Whittingham and Houghton. Towards the top of the latter there is a rather thicker limestone bed, the Pendleside Limestone, which occurs on the northern flanks of Longridge Fell. The top of the Carboniferous Limestone is formed by the Lower Bowland Shales, which contains a fairly characteristic grit band, the Pendleside Grit. These occur on Beacon Fell and Longridge Fell. The Millstone Grit is represented by a series of grits and shales. The lowest beds are the Upper Bowland Shales, which are succeeded by the massive Pendle Grit. This latter forms the conspicuous features of Beacon Fell and Longridge Fell, and together with the overlying shales and grits, underlie the parishes of Hothersall, Ribchester and Dutton. Millstone Grit shales and grits are present beneath the "drift" in the southern part of the parish of Samlesbury, and the north-east part of Grimsargh parish. The grits in this area have not been tried as a source of water supply, so the potentiality of water bores is not known. Results from boring in grits vary considerably according to the nature of the grit and its openness of grain and extent of the jointing and fissuring.

West of the Carboniferous Limestone and Millstone Grit occurs the Triassic **Bunter Sandstone**, a fairly hard red, yellow or buff-coloured sandstone. The details of structure and the position of faults are only assumed, but the following picture has been obtained by the study of available bore records. The Bunter Sandstone is faulted against or overlies the more steeply dipping Carboniferous Limestone shales, and the Millstone Grit to the east and south-east. The sandstone dips gently to the north-west and occurs beneath the drift in the parishes of Barton, Woodplumpton, Lea, Hutton, Penwortham, Cuerdale, the south-west part of the parish of Grim-sargh and the north-west part of Samlesbury parish. It is affected by strong faults the exact positions of which are difficult to determine. The Bunter Sandstone is an excellent source of underground water, and there are several private water wells in Preston which draw on this source. It is probable that further supplies could be obtained north of Preston, but care would be needed in the siting of the wells.

Keuper Marl, thinly bedded, fine grained red marls with bands and patches of green-coloured marls and thin bands of fine grained sandstone or "skerries" are present beneath the boulder clay in the parishes of Longton, Little Hoole, Much Hoole and Farington. The beds dip north-westwards and are separated from the Bunter Sandstone to the north by a fault. Borings in Keuper Marl give little or no water, and that which is obtained is too highly mineralised to be of use for public supply.

General Statistics.

STATISTICS AND GENERAL SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

- (1) Area in acres—50,318.
- (2) Population (Census 1931)—27,626.
- (3) Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, 1950—38,660.
- (4) Number of inhabited houses (Census 1931)—7,138.
- (5) Number of inhabited houses end of 1950 according to Rate Books—11,298.
- (6) Rateable value—£225,058.
- (7) Sum represented by a penny rate—£905 (31st March, 1950, estimated).

The social conditions generally do not alter, nor do the occupations of the resident population. The production of milk and poultry farming occupy important positions, and there is considerable industry in market gardening. The employment available is of a healthy character. There are four cotton mills, two paper mills and two small iron foundries in the area.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Subject	Total	Males	Fe- males	Rates per 1000 of the estimated resident population			Rate per 1000 Total (live & still) Births	Rate per 1000 Live Births
				Birth rate	Crude death rate	Adjusted death rate		
<i>Live Births</i>				Crude	Ad- justed			
Legitimate ...	559	271	288	14.7	16.9	—	—	—
Illegitimate ...	8	4	4					
Total ...	567	275	292					
<i>Still Births</i> ...	18	8	10	—	—	—	31	—
<i>Deaths</i> ...	461	217	244	—	—	11.9	11.3	—
<i>Maternal Mortality</i>								
Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	1	—	1	—	—	—	1.71	—
<i>Neo-Natal Mortality</i>								
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age ...	12	9	3	—	—	—	—	21

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	26
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	27
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	nil.

Deaths from

Cancer (all ages)	77
Measles (all ages)	Nil.
Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil.
Gastritis Enteritis and Diarrhoea (under two years of age) ...	5

TABLE OF COMPARATIVE STATISTICS.

Per 1,000 of Population					Maternal Mortality Rate		
	Live Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Death Rate from Cancer	Per 1000 Live Births	Per 1000 Total Live and Still Births	Infantile Mortality Rate
Mean 5 years 1940-44 ...	15.8	10.7	0.27	1.40	2.01	1.94	45
Mean 5 years 1945-49 ..	15.5	10.8	0.26	1.61	2.79	2.73	39
1949 ...	15.2	10.5	0.21	1.55	5.17	5.10	22
1950 ...	14.7	11.9	0.26	N.A.	1.76	1.71	26
County of Lancaster (1950) ...	15.06	12.84	0.28	1.97	1.01	0.98	33
England and Wales (1950) ...	15.8	11.6	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	0.86	29.8
Increase or decrease in 1950 on 5 years ... Average 1945-49 for Preston R.D. ...	— 0.8	+ 1.1	—	—	— 1.03	— 1.02	— 13
Previous year ...	— 0.5	+ 1.4	+ 0.05	—	— 3.41	— 3.39	+ 4

N.A.—Not Available.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

Live Births. The statistics with regard to both births and deaths have again been supplied by the Registrar-General through the County Public Health Department. The number of births and deaths referred to in this report are those registered during the calendar year, corrected for "inward" and "outward" transfers.

According to the Registrar-General, the total births registered in or belonging to the rural area during the year 1950 numbered 567 (males 275, females 292); 13 less than in the year 1949.

The live birth-rate for the Rural District, calculated on the estimated population, corresponds to 14.7 per 1,000. Last year the rate was 15.2. The adjusted birth-rate, using the comparability factor supplied by the Registrar-General, is 16.9.

The live birth-rate for England and Wales for the year 1950 was 15.8. That for 126 County Boroughs and great towns, including London, was 17.6.

Still-Births. Eighteen still-births were registered in the Rural District (males 8, females 10), equal to a rate of 31 per 1,000 live and still births.

Deaths. The net deaths actually belonging to the Preston Rural District for the year 1950 numbered 461 (males 217, females 244). This total includes deaths of persons belonging to the Rural District who died outside the District, and is exclusive of deaths (mainly in the Whittingham Mental Hospital and Ribchester Institution) of those persons not belonging to the Rural District.

The death-rate for the Rural District, calculated on a population of 38,660, is 11.9 per 1,000. Last year the death-rate was 10.5. The average death-rate for the five years 1945-1949 was 10.8.

Once again the Registrar-General has supplied a comparability factor for adjusting local death-rates. This factor takes into account the varying population constitution, including sex and age distribution, to make every district comparative from the mortality point of view, with the crude death-rate of the country as a whole, or with similarly adjusted death-rates for other areas. The adjusted death-rate using the comparability factor is 11.3 per 1,000.

The death-rate for the whole of England and Wales in 1950 was 11.6 per 1,000 of the estimated population. For the 126 County Boroughs and great towns, including London, the rate was 12.3.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

Ten deaths were registered as due to Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System; males 6, females 4, corresponding to a death-rate of 0.26 per 1,000 of the population. In 1946, this rate was 0.34 and 0.50 in 1930. The death-rate for 1950 shows a slight increase over the rate for 1949, which was 0.21 per 1,000, but compares favourably with the average rate over the last ten years of 0.25.

BRONCHITIS, PNEUMONIA AND INFLUENZA.

Bronchitis in 1950 contributed 20 deaths, against 18 deaths in 1949. Pneumonia (all forms) gave rise to 10 deaths, 5 less than last year. Influenza caused two deaths, the same as last year.

CANCER.

During 1950 there were 77 deaths (29 males, 48 females) ascribed to Cancer. The location of the disease was as follows:—

	Males	Females
Cancer of the uterus	—	10
Cancer of stomach	8	8
Cancer of the lung, bronchus	4	2
Cancer of the breast	—	7
Cancer of other sites	17	21

The following table shows the causes of death distinguishing males and females:—

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.
Tuberculosis, respiratory	6	4
Tuberculosis, other	—	2
Syphilitic disease	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	1
Measles	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	8	8
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	7
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	10
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	17	21
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	1
Diabetes	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	24	34
Coronary disease, angina	31	14
Hypertension with heart disease	4	7
Other heart disease	60	72
Other circulatory disease	4	8
Influenza	1	1
Pneumonia	4	6
Bronchitis	10	10
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2	3
Nephritis and Nephrosis	3	3
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	1
Congenital malformations	3	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	21	18
Motor vehicle accidents	3	3
All other accidents	2	1
Suicide	2	1
Homicide and operations of war	—	—
ALL CAUSES ...	217	244

INFANT MORTALITY.

The deaths of Infants under the age of one year numbered 15; males 10, females 5. Two more than last year.

Eleven of the Infant deaths in 1950 were due to congenital debility, malformation, and premature birth, representing 73% of the total Infant deaths, as against 61% in 1949.

The mortality rate calculated per 1,000 live births was 26, as compared with a rate of 22 in 1949 and 34 in 1948.

The Infant death-rate for the whole of England and Wales for 1950 was 29.8. For the 126 County Boroughs and great towns, including London, the rate was 33.8.

The following table analyses the causes of death in 1950 of Infants at stated age periods:—

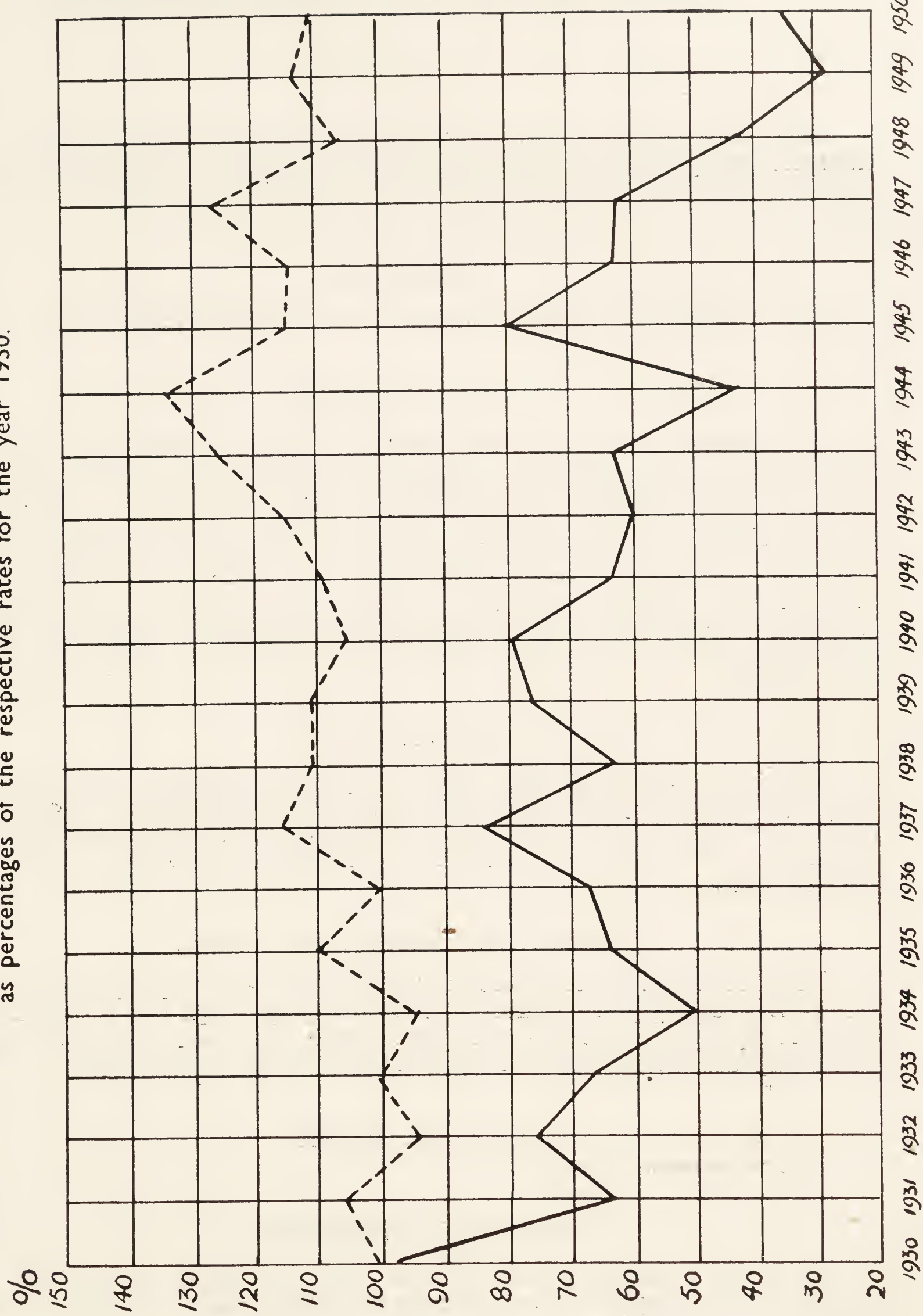
Causes of Death.	DAYS											MONTHS											Total Deaths under one year
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	14	21-28	28-56	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11-12		
Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth, &c...	3	4	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Broncho-Pneumonia	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Other causes	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Totals	...	3	5	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Under the head of Maternal Mortality, one death was recorded in the Rural District during the year 1950, corresponding to a mortality rate of 1.71 per 1,000 total (live and still) births, as compared with 5.10 last year.

LIVE BIRTH RATE : INFANT MORTALITY RATE : _____

Graph showing the live birth rate and the infant mortality rate for each year since 1930, expressed as percentages of the respective rates for the year 1930.



Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases.

Infectious cases are removed to the Deepdale Isolation Hospital, Preston. The transport arrangements are most excellent and expeditious. Immediately a case is removed, the Sanitary Inspector carries out disinfection of the house. There is no loss of time.

SMALLPOX.

The area was not invaded by smallpox, and for this immunity one is grateful.

SCARLET FEVER.

A considerable reduction in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever occurred in 1950, 33 cases being reported as compared with 89 in the previous year. The disease was of a mild type, and complications were the exception. The incidence of the outbreaks centred in January, February, March and April, and the months of July and August. The distribution involved numerous townships; amongst these were Farington, Grimsargh, Goosnargh, Lea, Ribchester and Penwortham. The cases were confined to children. There were no deaths. Twenty-seven out of the thirty-three notified cases went into Isolation Hospital. There is no difficulty in inducing parents to send their children into hospital, nor do adults object to this treatment.

DIPHTHERIA.

One case occurred in 1950, after two years of immunity. The patient, a school girl aged 12 years, had received primary immunisation in 1942 and a reinforcing dose in 1946. Two other children in the household had also been immunised. The patient was removed to hospital, and detained for a period of three weeks.

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH,

Incidence of Measles continued to decline, 181 cases being reported as against 221 in the preceding year. Unfortunately, Whooping Cough was on the rampage, 109 cases reported, an increase of 66 over 1949. Only once in the last ten years has this figure been exceeded—in 1944, when 143 cases were reported.

ENTERIC FEVER.

No case notified.

BACILLARY DYSENTERY.

Thirty-one notifications were received, twenty-two being notified from Whittingham Mental Hospital. The remaining nine cases, eight of which occurred in the Parish of Penwortham, were investigated, and faeces samples taken.

“ Notifiable ” Diseases.	Total Cases Notified.											Total Deaths	Hospital	
	Total Cases at all ages.	Age Periods—Years.											Total cases removed to hospital from the district	Deaths in Hospital of Persons belonging to district
		0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65 & over	Age un- known			
Scarlet Fever... ..	33	1	4	3	20	4	1	...	...	..	...	...	27	...
Diphtheria	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Measles	181	6	24	47	91	9	2	2	...	..	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ...	109	3	27	41	34	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	2	...	*10	2	1
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	1	...	...	..	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1
Dysentery	31	...	2	...	1	...	3	9	13	3	...	...	24	...
Erysipelas	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
Food Poisoning ...	8	...	...	1	...	3	...	2	...	2	...	...	4	...
Totals	372	10	57	92	146	20	7	15	16	9	...	11	59	2

* The death returns disclosed cases of pneumonia, of which this Authority had no record before death.

The township distribution of specified notifiable diseases is set out in tabular form for the year 1950, and for comparison the totals for the preceding four years are given:—

Townships.	Scarlet Fever		Enteric Fever		Diphtheria		Erysipelas	
	Cases notified.	Cases removed.	Cases notified.	Cases removed.	Cases notified.	Cases removed.	Cases notified.	Cases removed.
Farington ...	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...
Longton ...	1	1	...	...	1	1	...	...
Much Hoole ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Little Hoole ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hutton ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Penwortham ...	15	10	...	...	...	...	...	...
Samlesbury ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cuerdale ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lea ...	5	5	...	...	...	...	...	...
Goosnargh ...	4	4	...	...	...	...	2	...
Broughton ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Barton ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Haighton ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Woodplumpton ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whittingham ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ribchester ...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dutton ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hothersall ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Grimsargh ...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
1950 TOTAL ...	33	27	...	...	1	1	2	...
1949 TOTAL ...	89	69	...	...	...	...	5	...
1948 TOTAL ...	46	40	1	...	...	...	7	..
1947 TOTAL ...	32	19	1	...	3	1	4	...
1946 TOTAL ...	76	64	1	1	14	13	1	..

TUBERCULOSIS.

The Table below gives the number of new cases of the two forms of Tuberculosis, together with the deaths therefrom:—

Age Periods. Years	NEW Cases.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2 ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
5 ...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...
10 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15 ...	...	1	..	...	...	1	...	...
20 ...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	1
25 ...	7	2	...	..	1	1	...	...
35 ...	2	2	...	3	...	...	...	1
45 ...	1	...	1	...	1	1	...	...
55 ...	2	.	...	...	3	...	...	...
65 ...	2	1	...	...	1	1	...	..
75 and upwards	...	..	..	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	14	11	2	5	6	4	...	2
	25		7		10		2	

The Scheme for the prevention and treatment of Tuberculosis in the administrative County is administered by the Lancashire County Council and the Manchester Regional Hospital Board respectively.

A number of dispensaries are provided for the diagnosis of the disease, staffed by consultant Tuberculosis Officers and Tuberculosis Health Visitors. These dispensaries work in close association with the Sanatoria, and serve a valuable purpose in the main essence of supervision of patients after their discharge therefrom.

The Dispensary for patients residing in the Rural District is situated at 12, Walton's Parade, Preston.

Notification of Tuberculosis in the Preston Rural District is satisfactory and complete.

National Assistance Act, 1948.

Section 47.

Number of applications made during the year under Sub-section 3—Nil.

Number of Orders made Nil.

Schools.

The total number of schools in the Rural area is 31.

All were inspected during the year for sanitary defects.

A number of defects were found to exist, and these were brought to the notice of the Divisional Education Authority.

New Legislation.

SHOPS ACT, 1950.

In the preamble, this is described as an Act to consolidate the Shops Act 1912 to 1938, and certain other enactments relating to shops; consequently, this summary is restricted to those provisions of the new Act where existing legislation has been amended, either wholly, or in part.

The Act came into force on the 1st October, 1950, and those authorities which were originally designated “Shops Acts Authorities” are now known as “Local Authorities.”

Hours of Closing.—The essential provisions of Section 2 were originally contained in Sections 1, 2 and 3 of the Shops (Hours of Closing) Act, 1928, as amended by Regulation 60 AB (now repealed) of the Defence (General) Regulations 1939. During the winter months (i.e., the period commencing with the first Sunday in November in any year and ending on the first Sunday in the succeeding March), the general closing hours are 7-30 p.m. on the late day, and 6 p.m. on any other day. During the summer period, the general closing hours are 9 p.m. and 8 p.m. respectively.

Regulation 60 AB was continued in force until 10th December, 1950, by the Emergency Laws (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act of 1947. The general provisions of this Act relating to winter general closing hours have been re-enacted in Section 7. These provisions may be revoked by an Order in Council or, alternatively, they may be continued in force similarly for a further period not exceeding one year.

Power is given to a local authority to make a Closing Order substituting other hours (whether earlier or later) so, however, that they shall not be later than 7 p.m. except on not more than two days (one of which shall be the late day) when they may be not later than 8 p.m. Before making any such Order, such steps must be taken as appear appropriate for ascertaining the views of occupiers of shops and shop assistants affected by the Order.

By Section 5, the trade or business of selling newspapers and periodicals is excluded from the provisions relating to general closing hours.

Conditions of Employment.—The essential provisions of Section 19 and Third Schedule were originally contained in Section 1 and the First Schedule of the 1912 Act. There is now a maximum of six hours' employment without an interval of at least twenty minutes. This maximum was formerly five hours, or (by Section 9 (5) of the 1934 Act) five and a half hours on the day of the weekly half-holiday, but these provisions are now re-enacted in Section 20 (1) and Part II of the Third Schedule and apply to young persons only.

Modifications.—Section 45 contains entirely new provisions exempting fairs, etc., and non-profit-making libraries from the provisions of Part I of the Act, which relate to statutory half-holiday and meal times, and Section 37, which relates to seats for female shop-workers,

Section 46 contains similar provisions exempting Industrial and Provident Societies' libraries from the provisions of Parts I and II (other than those relating to Sunday employment) of the Act, which relate to hours of closing and conditions of employment.

To conclude, it is to be regretted that responsibility for the administration of Section 38 relating to sanitary and other arrangements in shops, is still divided between sanitary authorities on the one hand, and local authorities on the other, as it would have been particularly desirable for the provisions of sub-sections 4 and 5, which relate to washing facilities and facilities for taking of meals also to be enforceable by the sanitary authority.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

POINTS OF INTEREST BRIEFLY SUMMARISED.

The Act came into force on the 31st March, 1950, and repeals the Rats & Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

The powers and duties of local authorities in relation to control of rats and mice are to be found particularly in Part I, and certain enabling provisions are contained in Part III.

The powers of authorities are greatly strengthened, furnishing them with the means of achieving a radical improvement in the control of rats and mice.

Section 1.—Borough and District Councils are now directly vested, whereas formerly the vesting was in the County Councils with a right to delegate to Borough and District Councils willing to accept the duties.

Section 2 puts the primary obligation upon the local authority to ensure that, so far as practicable, its area is kept free from rats and mice.

Section 3 deals with the duty of occupiers of land to give written notice to the local authority when they have knowledge that rats and mice are present in substantial numbers. The exception to the rule is Agricultural land, and any other land which may be specified by the Minister by regulation. This new requirement does not remove the right of the occupier to arrange for the destruction of rats and mice on his premises.

For the purpose of determining what constitutes a "substantial" number, regard must be had to the character of the occupation, the size of the premises and other relevant factors.

Section 4—power given to local authorities to serve formal notice on owners and occupiers of land to take such steps as may be necessary for the destruction of rats and mice. The notice may require the execution of structural work. Where a notice is served under this section in relation to agricultural land, the local authority must notify the County Agricultural Executive Committee.

Section 5 empowers local authorities to carry out any work in default, and recover any expenses reasonably incurred. A fine can also be imposed on summary conviction.

Section 6 empowers local authorities to dispense with individual notices of requirement, where they are satisfied that rats and mice are present in substantial numbers in a group of separately occupied premises in a "block," and to take such steps as they consider necessary or expedient to deal with the land as one unit for the purpose of destroying rats and mice. Steps taken by the local authority under this section shall not include the carrying out of any structural work. Reasonable expense may be recovered.

Section 9 gives the local authority power to require information as to the interests in land.

Section 13 deals with food premises. Notification of infestation to be made directly to the Minister by owners and occupiers of food premises. The Minister will notify the local authority. Local authorities have full powers under Part I of the Act to inspect and require action to be taken against rats and mice in food premises.

Section 15 and **Section 4 (5)** deal with right of appeal.

Section 18 empowers Minister with consent of local authority to delegate powers under Part II of the Act.

Section 22 deals with Powers of Entry.

Section 28—Interpretation. The expression "land" includes land covered with water, and any building or part of a building.

Comment.

The responsibility for control now lies with the local authority, and the Preston Rural area with upwards of 800 farms cannot be supervised thoroughly with the existing staff. The burden is further enhanced by the fact that most of the time of the operators is taken up with travelling. However, much of the work could be minimised and control improved if the County Committee holds contracts with a large proportion of the farmers. If a list of farmers under contract could be obtained, the operators could concentrate their attention on those farms not under contract. The responsible officer has been approached, and such a list has been promised.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

The Council's Bye-laws made under Section 15 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, for securing the observance of Sanitary and Cleanly Conditions and Practices in connection with the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the Open Air came into operation on the 10th July, 1950.

The Bye-laws are most welcome, but an urgent necessity still remains, namely, the registration of eating places, if the public health control, which is required in the interests both of the trade as well as of the public, is to be strengthened. For that purpose, the provision for registration is not complete unless it includes a power to refuse registration, and a prohibition of starting a new business until registration has been granted. In short, premises should be inspected to see that they are satisfactory before they are brought into use as a catering establishment. The public ought not to be exposed to the health risks which may be involved in the use of unsuitable premises for new catering establishments.

Further, inspection before registration would act as a protection against unfair competition to that vast majority of caterers who conscientiously make every effort to ensure that their premises are hygienically satisfactory.

This matter cannot be stressed too strongly, if one believes in the consumer's right to expect a high standard of purity in food.

Milk Supply.—Much time and attention is devoted to this important subject by your Officers, with a view to providing and maintaining a pure and safe milk supply. Though farm control has been removed from the jurisdiction of the District Inspectors, they still retain responsibility and duties of an important character.

At the 31st December, 1950, there were 31 registered milk distributors in the area. The number of dairies on the register (not being dairy farms) was 10. Sixty-five visits were made to dairies, and generally the standard was found to be satisfactory.

In addition, and as far as unofficial records show, there were 98 producer-retailers operating in the Rural area.

The following dealers' licences (including supplementary licences) were issued during the period under review:—

(i) **The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949.**

Tuberculin Tested Milk	24
Accredited Milk	2

(ii) **The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised & Sterilised Milk) Regulations 1949.**

Pasteurised Milk	26
Sterilised Milk	1

There was no refusal or revocation of a licence for graded milk during the year.

Seventeen samples of milk were taken, and subjected to the minit test for dirt, and only one sample fell short of the standard required. Sixty-two samples were taken for the Bacterial and Methylene Blue Reductase tests. Forty-nine were satisfactory, and thirteen unsatisfactory. Twenty-two samples were taken in the district for the presence of tubercle bacilli, and two samples were found to be positive. Sixteen samples of pasteurised milk were taken, and subjected to the Phosphatase test. Five samples were found to be insufficiently heat treated.

In all cases of unsatisfactory samples responsible persons were notified.

In addition to the above, seven notifications of tuberculous milk were forwarded to the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries, who arranged for veterinary inspections to be carried out at the farms concerned.

Prior to this, notices restraining Sale of Milk had been served on the occupiers concerned by this Authority. Copies of such notices were immediately sent to the Area Milk Officer of the Ministry of Food.

As a result of the investigations of the Divisional Veterinary Inspector, four cows were reported for slaughter under the Tuberculosis Order of 1938.

Food & Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950.

Operative Day:—1st January, 1951.

This Act makes no changes in the law, but only consolidates certain enactments relating to milk, dairies and artificial cream. Part II of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, is repealed, as is The Milk (Special Designations) Act, 1949.

CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGNS.

Ministry of Food Circular M.F. 12/49—dated 10th August, 1949—related to the arrangement of lectures for Food Traders and their employees, lectures for the general public, exhibitions, formation of Clean Food Guilds, and formulation of Local Codes of Practice.

Periodical inspections of food premises in the Rural area, in particular catering establishments, revealed a fairly high standard of cleanliness in all respects, and this in many instances was improved following advice tendered by the Sanitary Inspectors.

Due to this high standard, and the fact that the Parishes of the Rural area are scattered, and in some instances have no centre, the opinion was formed that little would be gained by the arrangement of lectures, exhibitions, etc.

More can be attained by frequent inspections of these premises, and diplomatic approach fostering the spirit of voluntary co-operation, which already exists between the food traders and the Local Authority.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES, Etc.

The one slaughter-house, and one knacker's yard in the area were inspected at frequent intervals during the year, and on the whole, the premises were well run.

SHOPS.

All shops and premises coming within the purview of Section 13, or registered under Section 14, of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, have been inspected, and though the general standard is fairly satisfactory, such premises will be kept under constant review.

The total number of shops on the register is 91, and during the year 157 inspections were carried out.

Seventy-six of the above premises are registered for the manufacture and sale or storage and sale of ice cream. This figure includes 13 new registrations during the year.

Sixty-two retailers sell pre-packed ice cream manufactured outside the district.

Sampling of Ice Cream. Eight samples of ice cream were taken, and submitted to bacteriological tests. As a result of the tests, these samples were placed in the following grades:—

Grade I	...	...	...	5	satisfactory.
Grade II	...	...	...	Nil	
Grade III	...	...	...	1	poor.
Grade IV	...	...	...	2	bad.

Every endeavour was made by visits, advice and admonition to encourage the production of a clean and satisfactory product.

Hawkers' Vehicles were inspected during the course of their rounds. They were generally satisfactory.

Milk Vans and Carts were inspected when samples of milk were taken, and with a few exceptions were in a clean and satisfactory condition.

SLAUGHTERING.

Under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 908 notices of intention to slaughter were received, all of which were in respect of permits granted by the Food Control Committee for home consumption and not for sale.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	908
Number inspected	41
All diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcases condemned	26
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned...
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	62
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcases condemned
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned...
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis

Food Poisoning Outbreaks.

Total No. of Outbreaks.	Number of cases.	Number of deaths.	Organisms or other agents responsible with number of outbreaks of each.	Foods involved with number of outbreaks of each
TWO	Two cases notified within district. Four cases ascer- tained within the district.	NIL	SALMONELLA TYPHI MURIUM.	Information scanty In one instance. Beef sausages were suspected.

Report on Outbreak of Food Poisoning at "Danum," Marsh Lane, Longton, Nr. Preston.

1. DATE OF OUTBREAK. 20th July, 1950.

2. FOOD CAUSING OUTBREAK. BEEF SAUSAGES SUSPECTED.

Agent Causing Outbreak : SALMONELLA TYPHI MURIUM.

3. CASES FORMING OUTBREAK—

within the district 2

Total Notified :

outside the district Nil

within the district Nil

Total Ascertained :

outside the district Nil

FATAL—NIL.

4. CLINICAL FEATURES.

Average interval ingestion to onset, assuming beef sausages as causative food (hours) - 12.

Main Symptoms. Abdominal pain with diarrhoea and sickness.

Severity of illness. Both cases severe—admitted to hospital.

Duration of illness. 12 days.

5. RESULT OF LABORATORY INVESTIGATION.

Cases. Both cases investigated. Salmonella Typhi Murium isolated in faeces.

Other Laboratory Investigations—Nil.

6. ORIGIN AND PREPARATION OF SUSPECTED FOOD CAUSING ILLNESS.

Sausages manufactured previous day by local butcher (approx. sale 1 cwt. per week). Premises satisfactory as far as hygiene is concerned.

7. PLACE AT WHICH FOOD CAUSING ILLNESS WAS CONSUMED.

"Danum," Marsh Lane, Longton, Nr. Preston.

Estimated number of consumers at risk at this address—5.

8. PROBABLE ORIGIN OF INFECTION OR CONTAMINATION OF FOOD.

Contributory Factors. Not ascertained. Manufacture and storage satisfactory.

9. ACTION TO PREVENT FURTHER OUTBREAK.

Remarks.

The onset occurred on the 20th July, 1950.

The cases were not notified to the Local Authority until the 28th July, 1950. The patients' home was visited the same day. In addition, the patients were interviewed in the Isolation Hospital, and so far as they could recollect, the only meal which was common to both was the beef sausages consumed at the tea meal on the 19th July, 1950.

The butcher manufacturing the sausages was visited, and full enquiries made, but no evidence was found to suggest contamination in the butcher's shop.

The meat was obtained from the Ministry of Food Distribution Centre at Preston.

The time lag between onset and notification made further enquiries difficult.

Report on Outbreak of Food Poisoning at Crow Hall Farm, Woodplumpton, Nr. Preston.

Four cases of Dysentery were notified on the 6th November, 1950, from Crow Hall Farm, Woodplumpton (all members of one family). Faeces specimens were immediately taken, and on the 14th November, a positive report was received from the Pathological Laboratory of the Preston Royal Infirmary isolating *Salmonella Typhi Murium* in one case.

A report on the outbreak is submitted below, but information is scanty due to the lapse of time between date of outbreak (1st November, 1950) and the receipt of the first positive report on the 14th November).

1. **DATE OF OUTBREAK.** 1st November, 1950.

2. **FOOD CAUSING OUTBREAK.** Not known.

Agent Causing Outbreak : *SALMONELLA TYPHI MURIUM*.

3. **CASES FORMING OUTBREAK.**

Total notified :

within the district ...	... Nil
outside the district ...	... Nil

Total ascertained :

within the district 4
outside the district Nil

FATAL—NIL.

4. CLINICAL FEATURES.

Average interval ingestion to onset (hours) — No information.

Main Symptoms. Diarrhoea and sickness. One case—vomiting only.

Severity of Illness. Mild attack. No cases admitted to hospital.

Duration of Illness. Extremely short—two to three hours all cases.

5. RESULT OF LABORATORY INVESTIGATION.

Cases. All investigated. Salmonelli Typhi Murium isolated in two cases.

Food Samples. Six duck eggs; milk produced on farm—Salmonella Typhi Murium not isolated.

Other. The District Sanitary Inspectors visited the premises concerned, and procured blood specimens and cloacal swabs from a flock of 27 ducks. Approximately 25% of the blood specimens indicated that the ducks were infected. As regards the cloacal swabs, Salmonella Typhi Murium was not isolated.

Food Handlers—Nil.

6. ORIGIN AND PREPARATION OF SUSPECTED FOOD CAUSING ILLNESS.

No information. Occupier and family stated they had not consumed any duck eggs.

7. PLACE AT WHICH FOOD CAUSING ILLNESS WAS CONSUMED.

No information.

Estimated number of consumers at risk—Six people reside at Crow Hall Farm.

8. PROBABLE ORIGIN OF INFECTION OR CONTAMINATION OF FOOD.

Contamination of hands due to handling ducks on the premises.

Contributory Factors. No information.

9. ACTION TO PREVENT FURTHER OUTBREAK.

On receipt of notifications of dysentery, notice was served on the occupier restraining all persons on the farm from handling the milk produced. Later the milk was diverted for heat treatment. This action was immediate, and took place before the receipt of the first positive report on the 14th November, 1950.

Faeces specimens from the six persons residing at the farm were also immediately taken, and repeat specimens taken every alternate day, until three negative results were received in respect of each person at risk.

Finally, on receipt of the Pathologist's report on the blood specimens and cloacal swabs taken from the flock of ducks on the farm, the sale of duck eggs was stopped, and in consequence of this the ducks were slaughtered. Intestines and ovaries were removed, and the ducks allowed to go for human consumption.

CONDEMNATION OF FOOD UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

The amount of food surrendered as unfit for human consumption was 3 cwts. 19 lbs. A detailed list is contained in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's report. In addition, twenty-six pigs' carcasses were condemned for Swine Fever.

SAMPLING—FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Samples were taken by the Sampling Officers of the County Public Health Department, which is the authority responsible for the administration of the Act in this respect. Given below are the particulars of the sampling and the results.

A total of 282 samples was obtained; 177 were of milk, and the 105 others comprised:—

9 Coffee.	1 Nescafe.
3 Gravy Browning	3 Sugar.
7 Tea.	3 Blancmange Powder.
6 Margarine.	4 Cocoa.
1 Custard Powder.	1 Ginger Marmalade.
1 Jam.	1 Mustard Compound.
4 Cheese.	1 Rum.
5 Whisky.	3 Peas (Canned).
2 Baking Powder.	2 Salt.
2 Self-raising Flour.	1 Milk, Condensed (full cream sweetened).
2 Ice Cream.	1 Milk, Condensed (skimmed sweetened).
3 Lemon Curd.	2 Camphorated Oil.
2 Compound Syrup of Figs.	2 Malt Vinegar.
2 Sulphur Ointment.	3 Cooking Fat.
4 Butter.	3 Arrowroot.
3 Sago.	1 Prunes.
1 Flour.	2 Golden Raising Powder.
2 Pepper (White).	2 Castor Oil.
2 Liquid Paraffin.	2 Glycerine.
2 Seidlitz Powders.	
1 Dripping.	
3 Oatmeal.	

All the above samples were certified by the County Analyst to be genuine with the exception of the following:—

Sample.	Result of Analysis.	Action taken.
1 rum.	Contained 5.2% excess water 38.4 degrees under proof.	Prosecution—Vendor fined £5 and £3/3/0d. costs. Prosecution. Vendor fined £1 on each sample and a total of £8/8/0d. costs.
1 formal milk.	Deficient 8.3% fat and 10.9% solids-not-fat. The freezing point indicated the presence of 12.3% of extraneous water.	
1 formal milk.	Deficient 5% fat and 12.1% solids-not-fat. The freezing point indicated the presence of 10.1% of extraneous water.	
1 formal milk.	Deficient 21.6% fat and 10.8% solids-not-fat. The freezing point indicated the presence of 11.3% of extraneous water.	
1 formal milk.	Deficient 18.1% solids-not-fat. The freezing point indicated the presence of 12.4% of extraneous water.	
1 formal milk.	Deficient 18.3% fat and 6% solids-not-fat. The freezing point indicated the presence of 8.7% of extraneous water.	

Sample	Result of Analysis.	Action taken.
1 formal milk.	Deficient 8.3% fat and slightly low in solids not-fat.	Farmer interviewed.
1 camphorated oil.	Camphor 0.3% below minimum B.P. limit.	No action taken.
1 sulphur ointment	Ointment base consisted of yellow soft paraffin instead of white soft paraffin.	Packers communicated with.
1 informal milk.	Deficient 6.6% fat.	Vendor notified.
1 formal milk.	The freezing point indicated the presence of 0.5% of extraneous water.	Same vendor. Vendor cautioned and farm visited.
1 formal milk.	The freezing point indicated the presence of 1.3% of extraneous water.	
1 formal milk.	The freezing point indicated the presence of 1.6% of extraneous water.	
1 formal milk.	The freezing point indicated the presence of 0.6% of extraneous water.	
1 glycerine.	Contained 0.7% excess water.	No action taken.

Water Supplies.

The four major sources of water distribution in this rural area are:—

- a. The Preston Corporation.
- b. The Fulwood Urban District Council.
- c. The Fylde Water Board.
- d. The Manchester Corporation (Thirlmere).

These supplies are controlled by both chemical and bacteriological tests and analyses are periodically made. Results of analyses are set out hereafter.

The townships south of the Ribble are supplied by the Preston Corporation and Manchester Corporation. North Ribble townships receive Fylde, Fulwood and Preston water.

The here inserted table gives a series of figures indicating the water situation in the several Townships. Where houses are not receiving a laid-on supply, the explanation is, the non-supplied premises are situated a very long way from the mains:—

Parish	From Public Mains				From Private Supplies, <i>e.g.</i> wells, springs, etc.	
	Direct to houses		By means of standpipe			
	No. of dwelling houses	No. of population	No. of dwelling houses	No. of population	No. of dwelling houses	No. of population
Barton ...	321	1058	...	...	18	61
Broughton ...	155	508	...	...	...	...
Cuerdale ...	9	38	...	...	...	...
Dutton ...	10	30	...	...	58	187
Farington ...	1263	3881	...	...	...	...
Goosnargh ...	230	678	...	...	112	466
Grimsargh ...	253	801	...	...	...	...
Haighton ...	63	209	...	...	4	14
Hothersall ...	33	98	...	...	4	12
Hutton ...	398	1363	...	...	...	...
Lea ...	1541	4640	...	...	12	36
Little Hoole ...	224	662	...	...	...	...
Longton ...	1153	3571	...	...	...	...
Much Hoole ...	228	658	...	...	2	6
Penwortham ...	3503	10805	...	...	...	...
Ribchester ...	429	1363	...	...	37	118
Samlesbury ...	332	931	...	...	17	60
Whittingham...	346	4567	...	...	44	132
Woodplumpton	453	1541	...	...	46	166
TOTAL Whole District	10944	37402	...	...	354	1258

Submitted below is a table shewing water consumption per head of population over the past two years in the different supply areas.

Area of Supply				Sept. 1948	March 1949	Sept. 1949	March 1950	Sept. 1950
				<i>Galls.</i>	<i>Galls.</i>	<i>Galls.</i>	<i>Galls.</i>	<i>Galls.</i>
Longton & Penwortham	...			27.44	27.04	27.02	30.02	31.03
Farington	...	...	...	26.71	28.44	26.43	27.01	27.09
Lea	...	...	...	36.27	27.91	27.79	26.79	28.27
Samlesbury	...	...	...	36.75	34.64	46.27	47.26	37.10
Ribchester & Hothersall	...			17.04	19.92	23.27	21.19	18.87

The number of dwelling houses with piped supplies direct from mains is now 10,944.

The approximate number of dwelling houses without a piped supply direct from mains is 354.

Parts of the Townships of Goosnargh and Dutton are without a piped supply, but steps are being taken to remedy this.

Population supplied from public water main direct to houses is approximately 37,402, of a population of 38,660.

Analyses of Water Supplies.

I have been supplied with the following results of examinations of water supplies from the Fylde Water Board, Preston Corporation, Manchester Corporation and Fulwood Urban District Council.

FYLDE WATER.

Summary of Bacteriological examinations of Filtered Water before Chloramination from Hodder Works.

Date Sample taken.	pH value of Sample.	Aerobic micro-organisms growing in yeastrel agar.		Probable No. of coli-aerogenes per 100 m.l. of water (McCrary)
		No. of colonies per m.l. of water :		
		In 2 days at 37°C.	In 3 days at 22°C.	
10th February, 1950	9.20	2	11	1
15th February, 1950	6.40	1	7	0
21st March, 1950	9.40	1	3	1
5th May, 1950	9.05	0	2	0
27th June, 1950	8.80	1	3	0
22nd July, 1950	9.00	1	5	0
24th August, 1950	8.90	3	72	5
13th September, 1950	9.10	1	29	2
27th October, 1950	8.50	0	14	0
9th December, 1950	8.90	1	8	0

The following reports are relative to (a) Raw water, (b) Water going into supply where treatment is installed:—

Laboratory, Stocks Reservoir, Slaidburn.

Results of Bacteriological Analysis.

Water Stocks—Raw.
 Where sample taken Tap—Filter House.
 Date sample taken ... 23rd June, 1947.
 Sample taken by ... W. B. Ramsay.
 Date test applied ... 23rd June, 1947.
 pH value of sample ... 6.95.

Aerobic micro-organisms growing in yeastrel agar.	No of colonies per m.l. of water.
in 3 days at 22° C.	44.
in 2 days at 37° C.	6.
Probable number of coli-aerogenes per 100 m.l. of water (McCrary's tables)	14.

2nd Sample.

Water Stocks—Filtered.
Where sample taken P.H. Flow Channel.
Date sample taken ... 23rd June, 1947.
Sample taken by ... W. B. Ramsay.
Date test applied ... 23rd June, 1947.
pH value of sample ... 8.6.

Aerobic micro-organisms growing in yeastrel agar.	No. of colonies per m.l. of water.
in 3 days at 22° C.	36.
in 2 days at 37° C.	1.
Probable number of coli-aerogenes per 100 m.l. of water (McCrary's tables)	0.

Remarks:—Before chloramination.

Result of Chemical Analysis of Raw and Filtered Waters.

Manchester Corporation,
Waterworks Laboratory.

Source: Stocks Filtration Plant, Fylde Water Board.

Lab. No.	Date taken	Source
1466	24/3/47	Raw Water, Stocks.
1467	24/3/47	Filtered Water, Stocks.

Remarks:

1466. Faintly hazy light-brown coloured water with a few particles of sediment.
1467. Clear water free from sediment.

Lab, No.	1466	1467
pH value	6.8	7.4
Analysis	Parts per Million	
Total solids dried at		
100° C.	66.8	76.8
180° C.	64.8	71.6
Total Calcium as Ca	11.0	15.4
Nitrates as N ²	0.12	0.09

Phosphates as P	...	...	...	Nil	Nil
Silica as SiO ₂	...	...	...	4.0	3.5
Chlorides as Cl ₂	...	...	...	9.5	9.5
Free acidity as CO ₂	...	...	...	5.0	1.5
Free and Saline Ammonia as NH ₃	...	...	...	0.026	0.024
Albuminoid Ammonia as NH ₃	...	...	...	0.108	0.044
Oxygen absorbed test:					
4 hrs. at 27° C.	...	...	...	3.34	0.80
Hardness as CaCO ₃ :					
Temporary hardness	...	...	...	Nil	Nil
Permanent hardness	...	...	...	30	40
Total hardness	...	...	...	30	40

Result of Chemical Analysis of Filtered water taken in March, 1951.

Remarks:—Clear water with a trace of fine sediment.

Examination:—

pH value	...	...	...	...	7.25
Colour as p.p.m. platinum:					
Shaken sample	...	...	...	...	13
Filtered sample	...	...	...	...	10
Turbidity, p.p.m.	...	...	...	...	0.7
Odour. Cold or hot	...	...	...	...	Nil
Taste. Cold or hot	...	...	...	...	Nil
Parts per Million.					
Total solids dried at 100° C.	...	...	...	...	80.8
Total solids dried at 180° C.	...	...	...	...	74.4
Suspended solids	...	...	...	...	trace
Free acidity as CO ₂	...	...	...	...	2.0
Free alkalinity as CaCO ₃	...	...	...	...	Nil
Total alkalinity as CaCO ₃	...	...	...	...	18.0
Hardness as CaCO ₃ :					
Carbonate hardness	...	...	...	...	18.0
Non-carbonate hardness	...	...	...	...	22.0
Total hardness	...	...	...	...	40.0
Chlorides as Cl ₂	...	...	...	...	9.0
Nitrates as N ₂	...	...	...	...	0.39
Nitrites as N ₂	...	...	...	...	Nil
Ammoniacal nitrogen, N ₂	...	...	...	...	Nil
Albuminoid nitrogen, N ₂	...	...	...	...	0.033
Oxygen absorbed test, 4 hours at 27° C.	...	...	...	...	0.60
Silica as SiO ₂	...	...	...	...	4.0
Iron as Fe	...	...	...	...	0.17
Manganese as Mn	...	...	...	...	Nil
Phosphates as P	...	...	...	...	0.02
Total calcium as Ca	...	...	...	...	12.7

Report:—This sample is of excellent chemical quality.

MANCHESTER WATER.

RAW WATER.

Results of typical Chemical Analyses.

THIRLMERE AND HAWESWATER LAKES.

The lake waters are subject only to slight variations and the following are typical analyses.

	<i>Thirlmere.</i>	<i>Haweswater.</i>
pH value	6.4	7.1
Colour p.p.m. platinum	11	13
Turbidity p.p.m. silica	0.5	4.2
<i>Parts per million.</i>		
Total solids dried at 180° C.	30.8	32.4
Free acidity as CO ₂	2.5	2.0
Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	9.6	13.0
Total hardness as CaCO ₃	16.3	18.8
Chlorides as Cl ²	7.0	7.2
Nitrates as N ²	0.17	0.14
Nitrites as N ²	Nil.	Nil.
Ammoniacal nitrogen, N ²	0.015	0.010
Albuminoid nitrogen, N ²	0.028	0.042
Oxygen absorbed test, 4 hours at 27° C. ...	0.78	0.70
Silica as SiO ₂	2.0	1.5
Iron as Fe	0.10	0.13
Manganese as Mn	0.06	trace

Mixed Treated Supplies.

Date 1949.	June 6th	Sept. 12th.
Lab. No.	2716	2749
pH value	7.3	7.1
colour p.p.m. platinum	15	13
Turbidity p.p.m. silica	2.6	2.4
Odour—Cold	Nil.	Nil.
Hot	Nil.	Nil.
Taste—Cold or hot	Nil.	Nil.

Analyses	Parts per million.
Total solids dried at 180° C.	40.0
Free acidity as CO ₂	1.0
Total alkalinity as CaCO ₃	13.0
Total hardness as CaCO ₃	20.5
Chloride as Cl ²	7.2
Nitrates as N ²	0.51
Nitrites as N ²	trace
Ammoniacal nitrogen, N ²	0.013
Albuminoid nitrogen, N ²	0.036
Oxygen absorbed test, 4 hours at 27° C. ...	0.73
Silica as SiO ₂	2.0
Iron as Fe	0.16
Manganese as Mn.	0.03

Note.—Traces of nitrites, when present, are derived from the chloramine treatment.

BACTERIOLOGICAL REPORT.

Thirlmere and Haweswater Lakes and Thirlmere Aqueduct. (Mixed Waters).

Bacteriological samples from the Lakes were not taken during 1950.

The samples from the Aqueduct, collected at Babylon Lane, Adlington, have given the following results:

Total number of samples collected	...	...	6
Samples free from coliform bacteria	...	...	5
Sample containing coliform bacteria	...	...	1

The sample with coli contained 5 faecal coli per 100 mls.

There were no samples with non-faecal coli present.

PRESTON WATER.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF TOWNS WATER.

Date of sample:—19th April, 1950.

Total Solids in Solution	...	...	...	6.8
Oxygen absorbed from—				
Permanganate in 15 minutes	...	...	...	0.046
Permanganate in 3 hours	...	...	...	0.096
Ammonia	...	...	...	0.001
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	0.008
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	...	0.04
Nitrogen as Nitrites	...	...	...	Nil
Combined Chlorine	...	...	...	1.2
pH Value	...	...	...	7.0
Lead	...	...	...	Nil
Free Chlorine	...	...	...	Nil

The results of the Chemical Analysis are normal for water from this source, and there is no indication of animal pollution.

Subject to a satisfactory Bacteriological report the supply may be accepted as wholesome.

The sample was free from any objectionable odour either in the cold or on warming.

Date of Sample:—10th August, 1950.

Total Solids in Solution	...	...	...	6.8
Oxygen absorbed from—				
Permanganate in 15 minutes	...	...	...	0.043
Permanganate in 3 hours	...	...	...	0.080
Ammonia	...	...	...	0.0005
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	0.004
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	...	0.03
Nitrogen as Nitrites	...	...	...	Nil

Combined Chlorine	...	...	...	...	1.2
pH Value	...	...	...	...	7.2
Lead	...	...	...	...	Nil
Free Chlorine	...	...	...	...	Nil

Subject to a satisfactory Bacteriological report, this supply may be accepted as wholesome.

BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSES OF TOWNS WATER.

Date of Sample:—5th January, 1950.

Bacterial Colonies per ml Agar 37° C.	...	...	11
Coliform Bacilli per 100 ml	...	...	0

Date of sample:—18th April, 1950.

Plate Count: 4 Colonies per ml.	
Coliform Bacilli per 100 ml	...

An excellent sample showing a high degree of Bacteriological Purity.

Date of sample:—27th June, 1950.

Plate Count: 5 Colonies per ml.	
Coliform Bacilli per 100 ml	...

An excellent sample showing a high degree of Bacteriological Purity.

Date of sample:—8th August, 1950.

Plate Count: 2 Colonies per ml.	
Coliform Bacilli per 100 ml	...

These results are Bacteriologically satisfactory.

FULWOOD WATER.

Bacteriological Analysis.

a. Number of Examinations made.

Raw Water (i.e., in the reservoirs after pre-chloramination)

Bacteriological ... 3.

Results: Probable number of " B " Coli for 100 c.c.

3 samples: Nil.

b. Water going into supply after storage and post-chloramination.

Bacteriological ... 14.

Results: Probable number of " B " Coli in 100 c.c.

14 samples: Nil.

Chemical Analysis (Results expressed in parts per 100,000:

			Raw water	Treated water
Total solids dried at 105°C	...	...	10.4	11.2
Total Hardness	...	...	4.1	4.5
Temporary Hardness	...	...	2.0	1.8
Permanent Hardness	...	...	2.1	2.7
Combined Chlorine	...	...	1.5	1.6
Toxic Metals	...	...	Nil	Nil
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	...	0.014	0.004
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	...	0.011	0.015
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	...	...	Nil	Nil
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	...	...	0.05	0.05
Oxygen Absorbed in 3 hrs. at 26.7°C	...	...	0.226	0.241

Both samples, although clear, possessed a slight yellowish cast, each with a Hazen number of 30. Both were free from odour and particulate solids. Again, in each case the pH was the same, viz., 6.6.

The yields of albuminoid nitrogen and oxygen-absorptive capacity are typical of the supply, governed as they are by a sensible uptake of fermentable matter of vegetable origin. The much higher ammoniacal nitrogen figure in the raw water sample is no doubt due to the amino group of the chloramine introduced in the pre-sterilisation of the supply. There is nothing in the analysis to which objection could be taken, provided always that the bacteriological response is satisfactory.

Two chemical analyses were made of Raw Water, and one of Treated Water during the year with satisfactory results.

Typical Analysis.

Physical characters.—Water exhibiting a very faint opalescence, free from odour and deposit.

Hazen number, 30.: pH value 6.7:

Analytical Returns:

expressed in parts per 100,000.

Total solids	...	...	...	10.4
Total hardness	...	...	...	3.0
Temporary hardness	...	...	...	1.8
Permanent hardness	...	...	...	1.2
Combined chlorine	...	...	...	1.2
Heavy metals (lead, etc.)	...	...	...	Nil
Ammoniacal nitrogen	...	...	...	0.003
Albuminoid nitrogen	...	...	...	0.014
Nitrous nitrogen	...	...	...	Nil
Nitric nitrogen	...	...	...	0.08
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C	...	...	...	0.246
Action on new lead foil (24 hrs. at 15°C)	...	...	...	0.20

Opinion.—In all-round quality the present findings are in very close agreement with those of November, 1949.

Housing.

One thousand two hundred applicants for houses still remain on the Council's list at the 31st December, 1950, an increase of 156 over the preceding year. 96 families were re-housed, making a total of 491 since the end of hostilities.

The Housing Waiting List may be categorised as follows:—

No. of Agricultural applicants	...	...	...	110
No. of Private applicants	...	...	...	1090

Of the private applicants:—

Those residing in the Rural area number	...	...	751
Those residing outside the Rural area number	...	...	339
Those living in lodgings number	...	...	754
Those who are tenants of houses number	...	...	336
Special applications made on serious health grounds number			25

Though substantial progress has been made in the completion of houses, and the third phase of the Council's Housing Programme has reached the half-way stage, a factor emerges which is most disturbing, namely, that the number of houses being erected cannot keep pace with the increasing waiting list. To clarify this, the following figures are submitted for persual:—

				Houses completed	No. of Applicants on the Waiting List.
1946	...	...	...	34	837
1947	...	...	...	81	1100
1948	...	...	...	99	773
1949	...	...	...	181	1044
1950	...	...	...	96	1200

The substantial reduction which occurred in 1948 was due in the main to the steps taken, in accordance with the Ministry of Health's instructions, to distribute questionnaires to all applicants requesting them to state whether or not they wished to be retained on the waiting list. By this means, a revised and more genuine figure was obtained.

No doubt the figure for 1950 is swollen by applicants who do not now require houses, but even if a substantial allowance were made for this, the alarming factor is that the number of houses being constructed is far below the needs of the district.

The Council have built all the houses they have been allowed to build, and the only solution to this problem under present circumstances is for the yearly housing allocation to be increased, with a greater proportion of houses allocated to private builders, as the demand for ownership is also increasing. Many people, despairing of a Council house, are now demanding licences with which to build their own houses.

Something will have to be done, and done soon, if the health of the people is not to deteriorate.

Eighty-four Airey Rural houses have been scheduled for erection in the various parishes of the Rural area for housing agricultural workers. Seventy houses have been completed, and fourteen were under construction at the year end.

SLUM CLEARANCE.

Twenty-seven houses have been demolished since 1939, twenty-one formally and six informally. Undertakings have been accepted in the case of eighteen houses; in nine instances that the premises would not again be used for human habitation, and in nine instances, the premises to be re-constructed. Two houses were dealt with voluntarily by the owners.

Twenty-nine houses are officially scheduled for clearance, but are deferred until the time is more opportune to re-house the tenants.

The following tables show (1) schemes completed, (2) schemes in progress, and (3) schemes contemplated:—

(1)

Scheme					No. of houses.
Penwortham and Farington ... ..	...	...	...	...	22
Woodplumpton ... ..	...	...	...	...	16
Lea ... ..	...	...	...	...	40
Woodville Street, Farington ... ..	...	...	...	...	12
School Street, Farington ... ..	...	...	...	...	10
Penwortham ... ..	...	...	...	...	52
Barton ... ..	...	...	...	...	40
Samlesbury ... ..	...	...	...	...	16
Grimsargh ... ..	...	...	...	...	22
Woodplumpton ... ..	...	...	...	...	8
Little Hoole ... ..	...	...	...	...	24
Much Hoole ... ..	...	...	...	...	24
Goosnargh ... ..	...	...	...	...	28
Longton ... ..	...	...	...	...	29
Ribchester ... ..	...	...	...	...	22
Airey Rural Houses ... ..	...	...	...	...	8
Total ... ..	...	...	...	...	373

(2)

				Houses —	
				Completed.	Under Construction
					Not Yet started.
Sycamore Farm, Penwortham					
1st Contract ... ..	...	...	48	32	—
New Longton ... ..	...	...	8	28	—
Sycamore Farm, Penwortham					
2nd Contract ... ..	...	...	—	10	28
Ingol ... ..	...	...	—	—	28
Airey Rural Houses ... ..	...	...	62	8	6
Totals ... ..	...	...	118	78	62

(3)

Scheme.				No. of houses	
Sycamore Farm, Penwortham	...	...	...	114	
Coote Lane, Farington	...	...	...	18	
Total				132	

In addition, as part of the general Development Area for Penwortham, 137 houses will be built in the initial stage.

Some of these will be for Overspill purposes, and the remainder for general needs. Building operations should commence on the first 50 houses in 1951.

OTHER HOUSING.

In addition to Council houses, houses have been constructed by the Lancashire County Council, Ministry of Works, Kingsway Housing Association (formed by The English Electric Co.) and Private Builders.

As far as other housing is concerned, the position at the 31st December, 1950, was as follows:—

Constructed by	Completed.	No. of houses	
		Under Construction.	Not yet Started.
Lancashire County Council	... 34	—	—
Ministry of Works	... 208	—	—
Kingsway Housing Association	... 174	—	—
Private Builders	... 116	30	10
Totals	... 532	30	10

Remedy of Defects without service of formal notices:—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers—191.

Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs—4.

2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—

(a) By owner—Nil.

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners—Nil.

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied—68.

- (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after formal notices:—
- (a) By owners—7.
- (b) By Local Authority in default of owners—Nil.
- (c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—
- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made—8.
- (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders—8.
- (d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—
- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made—Nil.
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit—Nil.

HOUSING ACT, 1949.

No. of Schemes submitted (a) by private individuals ...	Nil
(b) of the local authority ...	Nil
No. of dwelling houses affected ...	Nil
No. of Schemes approved (a) of private individuals ...	Nil
(b) of the local authority ...	Nil
No. of dwelling houses affected ...	Nil
No. of additional separate dwellings provided ...	Nil

Sewage Disposal.

There are outfall works in six townships, viz.: Farington, Penwortham, Lea, Ribchester, Grimsargh and Broughton. The outfall works are maintained in a satisfactory manner. In other parishes a septic tank is provided for each house, or alternatively a small sewage purification plant is installed for a group of houses.

The schemes for Grimsargh, Lea, Longton, Hutton, Much Hoole and Little Hoole, are in course of preparation.

The here inserted table gives a series of figures indicating the sewage situation in the several parishes.

Parish	Connected to Public Sewer		Septic Tank, etc.	
	No. of Dwelling houses	No. of Population	No. of Dwelling houses	No. of Population
Barton ...	70	231	269	888
Broughton ...	50	175	105	333
Cuerdale ...	...	...	9	38
Dutton ...	...	...	68	217
Farington ...	993	3071	270	810
Goosnargh ...	...	...	342	1144
Grimsargh ...	202	623	51	178
Haighton ...	...	...	67	223
Hothersall ...	...	...	37	110
Hutton ...	...	...	398	1363
Lea ...	300	903	1253	3773
Little Hoole ...	...	...	224	662
Longton ...	...	..	1153	3571
Much Hoole ...	...	...	230	664
Penwortham ...	3487	10756	16	49
Ribchester ...	301	986	165	495
Samlesbury ...	20	60	329	931
Whittingham ...	...	..	390	4699
Woodplumpton	...	.	499	1707
TOTAL Whole District	5423	16805	5875	21855

Factories Act, 1937.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the Year 1950, for the Rural District of Preston in the County of Lancaster.

A new register is in the process of being compiled, and the survey shows numerous new factories, chiefly those relating to Motor Car Repairs. Most of the factories are of a small character, but there are in the Rural Area, 4 Cotton Mills 2 Paper Mills, and 2 small Iron Foundries.

Defects found to exist were in connection with Sanitary conveniences, ineffective drainage of floors, and want of cleanliness. Working conditions generally were good.

As regards the remedying of the defects, verbal notice of existence, and advice tendered, resulted in the necessary work being carried out. The informal approach creates a feeling of cordiality and a desire to co-operate.

I submit below Statement giving the number of inspections carried out, and defects found and remedied during the year:—

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

Part I. of the Act.

1.—INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	34	27	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	114	70	—	—
(iii) Other Premises, in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority † (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	4	1	—	—
TOTAL ...	152	98	1	—

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars (1)	No. of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecution were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)...	9	9	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	2	2	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4	—	4	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	2	2	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	17	17	—	4	—

Part VIII.—Sections 110 and 111.

Number of Outworkers in August List required by section 110 (1) (c), 1 Wearing Apparel (making, etc.).

J. WALKER,

August, 1951.

Medical Officer of Health.

Sanitary Inspector's Report.

To the Chairman and Members of the Preston Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1950.

During the year, the following legislation inter alia came into force:—

- (a) Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.
- (b) The Council's Bye-laws for securing the observance of Sanitary and Cleanly Conditions and Practices in connection with the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the Open Air.
- (c) Shops Act, 1950.
- (d) Food & Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950. (Operative date—1st January, 1951).

The principal changes in the law are dealt with in the Medical Officer of Health's Report, and there is no need for me to reiterate.

I should, however, like to make a few comments.

As regards the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, an important feature is that Borough and District Councils are now directly vested, whereas formerly the vesting was in County Councils with a right to delegate to Borough and District Councils willing to accept the duties.

The adoption of the Model Food Bye-laws by the Council marks a big step forward towards obtaining that standard of purity in food which every consumer has a right to expect.

The Shops Act, 1950, makes minor alterations in the law, but it is regretted that responsibility for the administration of Section 38 relating to sanitary and other arrangements in Shops, is still divided between sanitary authorities on the one hand, and local authorities on the other, as it would have been particularly desirable for the provisions of Sub-sections 4 and 5, which relate to washing facilities, and facilities for taking of meals, also to be enforceable by the sanitary authority.

Grave labour difficulties arose during the year, especially in the field of Public Cleansing, and the department was strained to the utmost to maintain a satisfactory service, particularly in the areas where a weekly collection of dry refuse was instituted last year.

Though it will be seen from the Report that the work of the Department has been considerable in every aspect of public health, except under Part II. of the Housing Act, 1936, figures do not altogether reflect the true extent of the work performed by the District Sanitary Inspectors. The incidental calls made on their services are prodigious. This is also true of the Building Inspector.

Rodent control has been continued in accordance with the recommendations of the Infestation Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and is dealt with in a separate report.

Finally, my thanks are due to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their continued confidence, and to the Members of the Staff for their willing co-operation at all times.

The following is a summary of the work carried out by the department during the year:—

SANITARY INSPECTORS' VISITS.

Inspections of dwelling houses	...	...	...	200
Re-inspections of dwelling houses	...	...	...	738
Verminous premises	...	...	...	3
Infectious disease	...	...	...	123
Dairies, milkshops, etc.	...	...	...	88
Food and food premises	...	...	...	157
Factories and bakehouses	...	...	...	98
Milk sampling	...	...	...	62
Ice cream premises	...	...	...	64
Hotels, Inns	...	...	...	12
Slaughterhouses, Knacker's Yard	...	...	...	6
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	6
Caravans	...	...	...	12
Water Supply	...	...	...	2
Shops	...	...	...	170
Closet Conversions	...	...	...	34
Insanitary Drainage	...	...	...	152
Fouled Watercourses	...	...	...	52
Middens	...	...	...	10
Anthrax	...	...	...	12
Swine Fever	...	...	...	16
Schools	...	...	...	31
Hawkers	...	...	...	2
Petrol Licences	...	...	...	60
Investigation of Applications for Council Houses	...	...	...	185
Other Visits	...	...	...	415
				<hr/>
				2710

NOTICES.

Informal	..	...	...	217
Formal	...	...	...	28

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disinfection has been carried out in the following cases of infectious disease:—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	35
Tuberculosis Removals	...	...	15
Tuberculosis Deaths	...	...	6
Cancer Deaths	...	...	2
Erysipelas	...	...	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	3
Whooping Cough	...	...	2
Dysentery	...	...	1

In addition, disinfestation and disinfection have been carried out in three instances of verminous premises, and two instances on request after death, respectively.

To conclude, 58 other visits have been made relating to Infectious Disease, including 36 visits in respect of cases of Food Poisoning.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

At the end of 1950, the following position existed in the Rural District as regards sanitary conveniences:—

No. of Fresh Water Closets ...	...	...	8948
No. of Waste Water Closets ...	...	...	243
No. of Pail Closets ...	...	...	1517
No. of Privy Middens ...	...	...	590
No. of Movable Ashbins ...	...	...	10386

The old bog closets and the pail closets exist mainly in the outlying parishes and in the small scattered areas.

The following conversions took place, and new sanitary accommodation was provided during 1950:—

No. of Pails converted into W.C.s ...	...	24
No. of Waste Water Closets converted into W.C.s	...	1
No. of Privy Closets converted into W.C.s ...	...	3

OTHER SANITARY DEFECTS DEALT WITH.

Dampness ...	...	49
Defective Ceilings ...	...	24
Defective Closet Pails ...	...	1
Defective Doors ...	...	12
Defective Floors ...	...	24
Defective Gutters ...	...	41
Defective Paving ...	...	9
Defective Roofs ...	...	44
Defective Pointing ...	...	8
Defective Sink Waste Pipes ...	...	8
Defective Walls ...	...	21
Defective W.C.s ...	...	21
Defective Windows ...	...	11
Defective Woodwork ...	...	7
Dirty Condition of Premises ...	...	4
Insanitary Drainage ...	...	152
Want of Ashtins ...	...	6
Absence of Washing Facilities ...	...	3
Fouled Watercourses ...	...	52
Middens ...	...	10
Miscellaneous ...	...	282

CLEANSING.

The improvement which took place in the labour situation during the previous year did not continue, and the establishment figure of 27 was never maintained. The average weekly staff figure varied between 21 and 25. Staff indisposition was a contributory factor, but the main cause would appear to be, either the unattractiveness of the occupation, or the unsuitability of the average person seeking employment through the Labour Exchange. For instance, 19 men were engaged during the year, and 20 terminated their employment.

The weekly collection of dry refuse instituted last year for the urbanised Parishes of Farington, Penwortham and Lea was continued. All other parishes, including the Eaves area of Woodplumpton and the Inglewhite and Whitechapel area of Goosnargh, were on a fortnightly collection of dry refuse, and, as far as circumstances permitted, the usual weekly and fortnightly collection of pails was maintained.

Ten thousand three hundred and eighty-six houses were cleared during the year.

Disposal is by means of controlled tipping. Five tips are in operation, and trained men are employed to carry out the work.

The work is carried out by direct labour, and the following table shows the amount of work done by the motor refuse vehicles from the 1st January to 31st December, 1950.

Vehicle.	Type.	Mileage	Petrol (galls).	Oil (Quarts)	Loads (Number)	Estimated Weight of Refuse in Tons	Miles per Gallon of Petrol
A.R.N. 512	Lewin ...	3732	1486	126	649	3934	2.51
A.R.N. 858	Ford ...	9037	1686	86	576	1197	5.38
R.N. 3679	Ford ...	2929	535	22	301	643	5.47
D.T.B. 622	Karrier Bantam...	340	27	1	17	41	12.63
F.N.D. 324	Fordson ...	7768	783	64	558	1153	9.92
A.R.N. 181	Karrier ...	6301	850	48	531	1114	7.41
C.C.K. 178	Ford ...	8073	1071	166	622	1327	7.54
C.R.N. 663	Fordson ...	5449	824	33	552	1150	6.61
D.C.K. 893	Fordson ...	2270	317	11	306	615	7.16
Totals		45899	7579	557	4112	11174	6.06

SALVAGE.

The following table analyses the weight and cash value of materials salvaged during the year 1950:—

Materials	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	£	s.	d.
Mixed Paper ...	205	9	1	—	1087	12	9
Magazines ...	12	19	3	—	119	12	11
Newspaper ...	6	9	3	—	80	16	10
Rags ...	6	8	—	15	122	3	1
Rough Textiles ...	4	1	1	9	27	2	5
String ...	—	8	3	2	1	18	9
Aluminium ...	—	1	3	2	4	12	8
Mixed Metal ...	—	4	1	—	11	12	6
Batteries ...	—	2	2	14	3	10	0
Bones ...	—	1	—	20	0	8	2
Totals	236	6	3	6	£1459	10	1

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

There are 152 factories on the register, and their condition is satisfactory. Five new factories have been added to the register during the year. Ninety-eight inspections have been made, and one notice served.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 29 bakehouses on the register. Frequent visits are made to these places and they are on the whole kept clean.

CANAL BOATS ACTS.

There have been no inspections carried out during the year.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES AND INSPECTIONS.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933:—

Fifty-three licences for Slaughtermen were issued.
Number of licensed slaughter-houses—1.

Under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, we received 908 notices of intention to slaughter, all of which were in respect of permits granted by the Food Control Committee for home consumption, and not for sale.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The Joint Rivers Board has jurisdiction in regard to rivers and stream pollution over the whole of the rural area.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.

There are six disposal works in the Rural area, and everything is being done to maintain them in a satisfactory manner.

HOUSING ACT, 1936.

The under-mentioned properties have been dealt with during the year:—
SECTION 11.

A.—Formal Action.

1. Houses Demolished.

Dandy Cottage, Haunders Lane, Much Hoole.
4, Greenbank Road, Penwortham.
10, Greenbank Road, Penwortham.
12, Greenbank Road, Penwortham.
123, Leyland Road, Penwortham.
127, Leyland Road, Penwortham.
129, Leyland Road, Penwortham.
131, Leyland Road, Penwortham.

2. Undertakings Accepted.

(a) Houses not to be used for human habitation.
Nil.

(b) Houses to be re-constructed.

Rose Cottage, Lea Town.

White Cottage (West), Chapel Lane, Longton.

White Cottage (East), Chapel Lane, Longton.

3. Houses scheduled for Demolition.

Nil.

B.—Informal Action.

1. Houses demolished.

Nil.

2. Voluntary Undertakings.

Nil.

SECTION 9.

A.—Formal Action.

Nil.

B.—Informal Action.

15, Priory Lane, Penwortham.

14, Kew Gardens, Penwortham.

9, Church Lane, Penwortham.

Sea View, Liverpool Old Road, Much Hoole.

Slum Clearance.

Action taken with regard to the administration of the Housing Act, 1936.

The following table shows action taken in the various Parishes in the Rural District with regard to slum clearance from 1940 to 1950, inclusive:—

PARISH.			HOUSES.						
			Demolished.		Undertakings accepted following formal action.		Voluntary action by owners.		Scheduled for demolition.
			Form-ally.	Inform-ally.	Not to be used for human habitation.	Re-construction	Converted to farm buildings.	Not to be used for human habitation.	
Barton	...	...	...	...	I	...	...	...	...
Broughton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I
Cuerdale	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dutton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Farington	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Goosnargh	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Grimsargh	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Haighton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hothersall	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hutton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I
Lea	...	...	4	...	I	I	...	...	2
Little Hoole	...	...	...	I	...	...	...	...	...
Longton	...	...	...	...	3	3	...	...	4
Much Hoole	...	...	3	...	...	I	...	I	3
Penwortham	...	...	10	...	I	2	I	...	10
Ribchester	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Samlesbury	...	...	...	I	...	I	...	...	...
Whittingham...	...	...	...	...	...	I	...	...	...
Woodplumpton	...	...	4	4	3	...	...	...	2
TOTALS	...	...	21	6	9	9	I	I	29

Slum Clearance.

Action taken during the year 1950 only.

PARISH.			HOUSES.						
			Demolished.		Undertakings accepted following formal action.		Voluntary action by owners.		Scheduled for demolition.
			Form-ally.	Inform-ally.	Not to be used for human habitation.	Re-construction	Re-construction	Not to be used for human habitation.	
Barton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Broughton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cuerdale	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dutton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Farington	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Goosnargh	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Grimsargh	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Haighton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hothersall	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hutton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lea	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Little Hoole	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Longton	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Much Hoole	...	...	1	...	...	..	...	...	...
Penwortham	...	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ribchester	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Samlesbury	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whittingham...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Woodplumpton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	...	...	8	...	...	3	...	...	...

PETROLEUM ACTS.

No. of new licences granted for storing petrol during the year—4.
No. of renewal licences granted during the year—90.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES, ETC.

There are no common lodging houses or houses let in lodgings on the Register.

TENTS, VANS, ETC.

Tents and vans were inspected and any necessary action taken under the Bye-Laws of 1937.

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

During the period under review, the District Council continued to carry out, on behalf of the Lancashire County Council, all the inspectorial duties required under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, including those duties under Section 10.

Of the 273 shops on the register, 10 having been added to the register during the year, 127 of them were visited and inspected under the delegated scheme. All the shops, except three, were found to comply with the provisions of the Act. In each of the three cases referred to, females were employed, but the sanitary accommodation was insufficient for them, and at two of three premises concerned there was insufficient ventilation. Informal notices were served in each case, and were complied with.

RAG FLOCK ACTS.

There are no premises in the district on which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

No consent has been given by the Local Authority for the establishment of any offensive trade in the Rural area.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No special action was taken with regard to smoke abatement during the year.

ANTHRAX.

Twelve cases were notified during the year:—

- 2 cases at Goosnargh.
- 3 cases at Lea.
- 2 cases at Woodplumpton.
- 1 case at Grimsargh.
- 2 cases at Ribchester.
- 2 cases at Whittingham.

The premises were visited, and the burning of the carcasses and disinfection under Police supervision were found to have been carried out in a satisfactory manner.

SWINE FEVER.

Five cases were notified during the year:—

- 1 case at Barton.
- 1 case at Goosnargh.
- 1 case at Lea.
- 1 case at Whittingham.
- 1 case at Woodplumpton.

In addition, notices were received placing the following premises under Movement Restrictions:—

- Cringlebrooks Farm, Inglewhite.
- Arden Dee Whittingham Lane Barton.
- Moorfields House Farm, Goosnargh.

The District Inspectors were called upon to inspect the carcasses of 41 pigs which were slaughtered at the under-mentioned premises:—

- Premises at Whittle Hill, Woodplumpton, in the ownership of Mrs. Bell.
- Back Lane Farm, Whittingham.

Of the 25 pigs at Whittle Hill, evidence of swine fever was found in 23 carcasses, and at Back Lane Farm, in 3 carcasses out of 16 inspected. 15 carcasses were passed as fit for human consumption.

In all cases the premises were disinfected, and the infected carcasses disposed of under police supervision.

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE.

No cases were notified during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk supply—action taken with regard to:—

The administration of the Milk and Dairies Acts and Regulations, and the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

At the 31st December, 1950, there were 31 registered milk distributors in the area, operating from:—

(a) own dairies in the district	...	...	...	10
(b) dairy farms in the district	...	...	...	2
(c) premises outside the district	...	...	...	7
(d) milk shops, not being dairies in the district	...	...	...	12

The number of dairies on the register was ten. 65 visits were made to dairies, and generally the standard was found to be satisfactory. Two written notices were served. In one instance, a new drainage system was installed, and in the other, a defective floor was repaired.

In addition, and as far as unofficial records show, there were 98 producer-retailers operating in the Rural area.

The following dealers' licences (including supplementary licences) have been issued during the period under review:—

(i) **The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949.**

Tuberculin Tested milk	...	...	...	...	24
Accredited milk	...	...	...	...	2

(ii) **The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised & Sterilised Milk) Regulations 1949.**

Pasteurised milk	...	...	...	...	26
Sterilised milk	...	...	...	...	1

There was no refusal or revocation of a licence for graded milk during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS ORDER, 1938.

Seven notifications of tuberculous milk were forwarded to the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, who arranged for veterinary inspections to be carried out at the farms concerned.

Prior to this, notices restraining Sale of Milk had been served on the occupiers concerned, by this Authority. Copies of such notices were immediately sent to the Area Milk Officer of the Ministry of Food.

As a result of the investigations of the Divisional Veterinary Inspector, four cows were reported for slaughter under the Tuberculosis Order of 1938.

MILK SAMPLING.

The following samples of milk were taken, and subjected to the minit test for dirt, with the following results:—

No. of samples taken	...	...	...	...	17
„ „ found to be clean	...	...	...	...	16
„ „ very slightly contaminated	...	...	...	...	—
„ „ slightly contaminated	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ found to be dirty	...	...	...	...	—

Sixty-two samples have been taken for the Bacterial and Methylene Blue Reductase tests, with the following results:—

Satisfactory	...	...	...	49
Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	13

Twenty-two samples have been taken in the district for the presence of tubercle bacilli:—

Results ... 2 Positive. 20 Negative.

Sixteen samples of Pasteurised milk were taken and subjected to the Phosphatase test, with the following results:—

Samples sufficiently heat treated	...	...	...	11
Samples insufficiently heat treated	...	...	...	5

SHOPS.

All shops and premises coming within the purview of Section 13, or registered under Section 14, of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, have been inspected, and though the general standard is fairly satisfactory, such premises will be kept under constant review.

The total number of shops on the register is 91, and during the year 157 inspections were carried out.

Seventy-six of the above premises are registered for the manufacture and sale or storage and sale, of ice cream. This figure includes 13 new registrations during the year.

Sixty-two retailers sell pre-packed ice cream manufactured outside the district.

Sampling of Ice Cream.

Eight samples of ice cream were taken, and submitted to bacteriological tests. As a result of the tests these samples were placed in the following grades:—

Grade 1	...	...	...	5 satisfactory.
Grade II	...	...	...	Nil
Grade III	...	...	...	1 poor.
Grade IV	...	...	...	2 bad.

Every endeavour was made by visits, advice and admonition to encourage the production of a clean and satisfactory product.

HAWKERS.

Hawkers of Meat, or Meat Food Products, Fish, Fruit and Vegetables, and their premises situate in the Rural area, are registered under Section 115 of the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1938.

No. of registered hawkers	...	...	...	16
No. of registered premises	...	...	...	7

The following is a summary of the Foodstuffs condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year:—

Description.	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	Ozs.
Cheese	—	...	—	...	25 ... —
56 Tins of Canned Fruit	—	...	3	...	13 ... 8
Boiled Ham	—	...	1	...	12 ... —
Bacon	—	...	1	...	2 ... —
Butter	—	...	—	...	22 ... —
2 Tins of French Ham	—	...	—	...	25 ... —
13 Tins of Victoria Plums ...	—	...	—	...	24 ... —
9 Tins of Meat and Gravy ...	—	...	—	...	11 ... 4

16 Cartons of Rye Crisp Bread									
2 Tins of Pears									
2 Tins of Veal Loaf									
27 Tins of Evaporated Milk									
1 Tin of Minced Beef Loaf ...									
4 Packets of Cake Mixture .									
37 Tins of Steamed Pudding									
Mixture									
2 Tins of Salmon	—	...	—	...	2	...	24	...	4
7 Tins of Peas									
2 Tins of Tomatoes									
1 Tin of Canned Fish									
1 Tin of Canned Vegetables									
2 Tins of Lunch Meat									
2 Tins of Soup									
1 Tin of Mincemeat									
4 Tins of Condensed Milk ...									
<hr/>									
Total Weight	—	...	3	...	—	...	19	...	—
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Wherever possible, the condemned foodstuff was diverted to animal feeding.

In addition, twenty-six pigs carcasses were condemned for Swine Fever.

PARKS AND PLAYING FIELDS.

The following schedule gives the Playing Fields provided in the Rural District, and an indication of the area on each field available for games:—

Situation	Whole area	Area for games				Area let off for	
		Acres		Grazing	Ploughing		
Barton	5	...	5	...	—	...	—
Broughton	5	...	5	...	—	...	—
Farington	10½	...	10½	...	—	...	—
Grimsargh	12	...	6	...	—	...	6
Hurst Grange, Penwortham	16½	...	12	...	4½	...	—
Hutton	7	...	7	...	—	...	—
Lea	16½	...	4½	...	6	...	6
Little Hoole	4	...	4	...	—	...	—
Longton	6	...	6	...	—	...	—
Much Hoole	5	...	5	...	—	...	—
New Longton	9	...	5½	...	—	...	3½
Queensway, Penwortham	5	...	5	...	—	...	—
Penwortham Hall ...	18½	...	12½	...	6	...	—
Tardy Gate	5½	...	5½	...	—	...	—
Woodplumpton	6½	...	2½	...	4	...	—
<hr/>							
Totals	132	...	96	...	20½	...	15½
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During the year a great deal of maintenance work has been carried out, and in most instances, those parts of the field which were free, were brought up to the pre-war standard. In addition, the playing fields at Farington were released from the Plough-up order. Additional land was made available for games at Hurst Grange, Penwortham Hall, and Woodplumpton Playing Fields.

The work of the Department also included the planting of trees and shrubs on Housing Estates, and mowing the grass verges.

Rodent Report.

STAFF.

During the year one Rodent Officer was employed.

SEWERS.

The whole of the sewerage system of the district was test baited in May, when 10 per cent. of the manholes on the main sewerage system were baited with sausage rusk and bread mash. This test baiting revealed that infestation was present at three points in the Parish of Ribchester only.

The recognised method of pre-baiting followed by poison baiting was carried out in the area shown to be infested. A maintenance treatment was carried out in the same area in November.

SEWAGE WORKS.

The Council's Sewage Works at Penwortham, Grimsargh, Lea, Ribchester and Farington were treated periodically, and infestation kept down to a minor level.

TIPS.

The Council's refuse tips at Penwortham, Whittingham, Ribchester and Hoole were also treated periodically with excellent results, but though minor infestation only now exists, regular visits will be made to these tips in the coming year, and any signs of infestation dealt with accordingly.

PREMISES.

During the year 99 complaints of rodents were received or otherwise discovered and investigated. In 48 cases, no evidence of infestation was found. In the remaining 51 cases, premises were treated in the approved manner, and infestation cleared.

BAIT.

The bait used was sausage rusk and stale bread mash. In one instance sugar and meal was used.

POISONS.

The poisons used were Zinc Phosphide and Arsenic.

RESULTS.

Estimated number of rats destroyed, 659. Total number of rats found, 241.

Infestation. Three of the reservoir type and four of the major type were reduced to minor, and re-treatment is to be made. Twenty-six of the minor type were cleared, and no post baits were taken.

The house-to-house search instituted in accordance with instructions received from the Divisional Rodent Officer was continued throughout the year in all Parishes, with little to report apart from mice infestation. In these cases, advice was tendered and mouse traps loaned to the occupiers of dwelling-houses concerned with good results.

Much research work is being carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries where new methods and poisons are being investigated. A close liaison is maintained with the Ministry through the No. 9 Workable Area Committee, comprising of the Boroughs of Preston and Chorley, the Urban Districts of Leyland, Walton-le-Dale, Adlington, Withnell, Fulwood and Longridge, and the Rural Districts of Preston, Chorley and Garstang.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. COLLIER,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Report of Building Inspector.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting a Report on the buildings dealt with during the year 1950.

The table below shows the number and situation of new houses which were erected:—

Parish					Dwelling houses erected
Barton ...	...	...	...	...	5
Broughton	...	...	...	...	1
Farington	...	...	...	...	1
Goosnargh	...	...	...	...	10
Haighton	...	...	...	...	2
Hutton...	...	...	...	...	4
Lea ...	...	...	...	...	18
Little Hoole	...	...	...	...	4
Longton	...	...	...	...	14
Much Hoole	...	...	...	...	7
Penwortham	...	...	...	...	49
Ribchester	...	...	...	...	10
Samlesbury	...	...	...	...	1
Whittingham	...	...	...	...	4
Woodplumpton	...	...	...	...	3
TOTAL...					133

The following visits have been made in connection with the erection of houses by private enterprise:

Inspection of Site	...	...	132
Inspection of Foundations	...	...	67
Inspection of Drainage	...	...	84
Inspection on Completion	...	...	98

In addition, 1,332 visits were made to the Council's Housing Estates, 30 inspections were carried out in connection with Civil Building licences, and there were 415 miscellaneous visits.

TOWN PLANNING.

The Lancashire County Council is the Local Planning Authority for the Rural District, and under delegated powers, 274 applications to develop were received and considered by this Council with the following results:—

Permission granted	...	...	...	...	61
Permission granted, subject to conditions				...	159
Refused	...	...	...	...	15
Deferred	...	...	...	...	39

H. COLLIER,

Building Inspector.

Report on Water Supply

To the Chairman and Members of the Preston Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

This report is a continuation of the report submitted by the Medical Officer of Health, and deals solely with the work of the Department during the year 1950.

The number of connections shows a decrease, as does the number of extensions, compared with the preceding year—this you will notice by the following figures:—

Connections	...	...	1949	...	282
Connections	...	...	1950	...	157
Extensions of Mains	...	...	1949	...	2263 yds.
Extensions of Mains	...	...	1950	...	1745 yds.

The following table shows the connections made in the various Parishes during the year:—

PARISH	Houses	Lime taps	Village Hall	Troughs	Power Station	Mill	Farms	Tap in Field	Small-holding	Builders Yard
FARINGTON ...	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
HUTTON	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
LEA	6	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
LITTLE HOOLE	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
LONGTON	33	3	—	10	—	—	1	—	—	—
MUCH HOOLE .	25	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
PENWORTHAM	72	1	—	2	1	—	1	1	1	—
RIBCHESTER ...	5	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
SAMLESBURY .	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	120	11	1	18	1	1	2	1	1	1

Extensions to Water Mains for the year are as follows:—

Parish	2"	3"	4"	5"	9"
		<i>Yds.</i>			
Farington ... ..	...	...	...	81	...
Lea ... ..	...	70	...	...	...
Longton ... ..	...	170	...	...	...
Penwortham	74	389	364	48	549
Totals	74	629	364	129	549

In addition, general routine maintenance of the Undertaking was carried out, and the following general summary gives a brief survey of the work entailed:—

No. of taps re-washed	...	...	...	...	448
No. of Service Pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	64
No. of Mains repaired	...	...	...	...	26
No. of Ball Hydrants repaired	...	...	...	...	Nil
No. of Ball Hydrants converted to screw-down type	...	...	...	...	33
No. of new Hydrants installed	...	...	...	...	3
No. of Meters changed	...	...	...	...	34
No. of Ferrules cleaned	...	...	...	...	24
Length of Mains scraped	...	...	...	...	90 yds.
No. of Visits to Consumers' premises	...	...	...	...	252

Further, despite labour difficulties, regular flushing was carried out in every Parish served by the Undertaking. In addition, test surveys for bursts were carried out in the Parishes of Lea, Longton, Penwortham, and Samlesbury.

Numerous incidental jobs were carried out on the Council's Housing Estates.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. COLLIER,

Water Engineer.

